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As with all religious **symbolism**, there is no attempt to justify mythic narratives or even to render them plausible. Every myth presents itself as an **authoritative**, factual account, no matter how much the narrated events are at variance with **natural law** or ordinary experience. By extension from this primary religious meaning, the word *myth* may also be used more loosely to refer to an ideological belief when that belief is the object of a quasi-religious faith; an example would be the Marxist eschatological myth of the withering away of the state.

Britannica

**AS DISTANT AS THE DAWN OF HUMAN HISTORY,
AS CLOSE AS OUR MIND'S EYE**

“Greek myths remain true for us because they excavate the very extremes of human experience: sudden, inexplicable catastrophe; radical reversals of fortune; seemingly arbitrary events that transform lives. They deal, in short, in the hard basic facts of the human condition.”

Charlotte Higgins, Greek Myths: A New Retelling

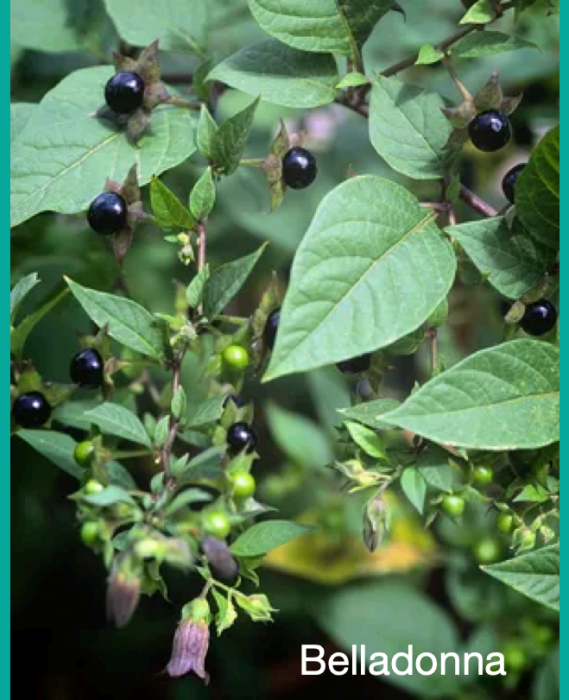
“Persephone Leaving”



Mary Jo Bang

Her Flowers:

Meadows Goldenrod



Belladonna

Her Fruit

Malum Punicum





Her Meager Repast

3 Seeds?

4 Seeds?

Christian Symbol
of Resurrection:

Botticelli's
Madonna of the Pomegranate
(Detail, 1487)



Like **belladonna**, **pomegranate** is heavily laden
with symbolic powers:

Fertility and Sexual Union
Birth and Afterlife
Resurrection and Spring
Love and Marriage
Knowledge



Union with the Divine
Protection from Evil
Unity of Life
Wealth and Abundance
Cultural Heritage



A Match Made in Hell?

**I want to read
more of
Mary Jo Bang's
poems
and translations.**



How
about
you?

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/mary-jo-bang>

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