



in the Dining Room

THE DORNOCH HOTEL
SUTHERLAND
A NORSCOT HOTEL

The Murals
by Beatrice MacDermott depict

'The Story of the Seasons'

as told in the Greek Myth of
Persephone and Demeter

Spring

Persephone the fair young daughter of Demeter, the Earth Goddess of Agriculture, is gathering flowers with her playmates in the Elysian Plains, when Aidoneus, better known as Pluto, the dark God of the Underworld, appears with his chariot from an opening in the ground, and carries her off to be his Queen of the Dead.

On his head is the helmet which has the power to make the wearer invisible. It is his custom to lend it to both Gods and Mortals.

Ἄνοιξις

Summer

The grief stricken Demeter is receiving information of her daughter's fate from Apollo.

She deserts Olympus for the land of Mortals, turns the green of her cloak inside and refuses to allow vegetation to grow.

Zeus, Persephone's father, sends Mercury to fetch her back from the Underworld.

Pluto consents after giving Persephone a pomegranate to eat to ensure that she keeps her promise to return as his Queen for three months of the year.

In the second panel Mercury brings Persephone to her mother, the ivy from the Underworld still clinging to her shoulders, while the flowers spring from Demeter's falling cloak, revealing her headdress of blue ribbons and corn.

Θέρος

Autumn

Shows the happy mother and daughter receiving the gratitude of mortals for the gifts of the Earth. Persephone empties her cornucopia, and Demeter's mystic basket flourishes with corn and poppies. Pan drives the pigs for sacrifice, and a Dionysian figure hails the Goddess on the left.

The artist has added Lion Rampant of 1948, baring his claws, ready to put British Industry on its feet. while the Unicorn on the other side bids a last glance back to the magic of the past.

Φθινόπωρον

Winter

The sad-eyed Persephone fulfilling her promise, sits beside her spouse, seeming to protest, as the much-dreaded and powerful Pluto prepares to push into the nether regions the fresh souls crossing the black Styx in Charon's barge.

At Charon's landing stage sits Cerberus, the three-headed dog who guards the entrance to the Underworld. Mercury, whose task is to conduct the dead on their last voyage, turns his head away as he announces the new arrivals, for none may look into the eyes of the swarthy God.

The artist has portrayed Hope of brighter days to come in the glimmering of light from behind the pregnant clouds, for Persephone also represents the immortality of Man.

Χειμών