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Gail White

### A Devotee of the Old Religion

Gods, if my prayers, which have been long in line,  
are near the top, I'm asking for a sign  
of your returning favor: Could we please  
revive the Eleusinian Mysteries?  
We know them very little. Liturgies  
are few and far between, and might I add,  
it's time to bring the Mother-Daughter dyad  
back. Return to the Spring Equinox,  
the maiden radiant, with flowing locks,  
restored from Hades in a blaze of flowers.  
And Winter Solstice—light the darkened hours  
with hope, with cosmic lovers in their bed  
whose union will raise Nature from the dead  
when Spring returns. Please, as the seas retreat  
and we consume ourselves in our own heat  
and set off planetary smoke alarms,  
restore the daughter to her mother's arms!  
The sun returns, the trees are green again,  
and gods are raised for women, as for men.

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Gail White's chapbooks include *Paper Cuts*, *Asperity Street*, and *Catechism*. She has work in a number of anthologies, including *Purr & Yowl*, *Chance of a Ghost*, and *Nasty Women Poets*, and she is a contributing editor of *Light Poetry Magazine*.