

The Mother of All

*First she created Eros
- Hesiod*

The mother of all substantial beings
Earth, who always was, of herself
created Sky who covered her
repeatedly but loathed and locked up
the misshapen hideous
unruly broods their union occasioned
until she had her favorite son
castrate him thus setting free
her polyamorous progeny
to copulate and populate
the world in their own images.

Ageless Abyss divulged Night
Mother of all uncertainty
who coupled in love with her brother Darkness
gave birth to Day and bright Aither
but of herself brought forth things
intangible, disembodied —
Discord Dread Misery Grief
Disaster and Deceit Sleep and bad Dreams
Blame Old Age Death
and Strife — who in her turn spawned
Toil and Forgetfulness, Dispute
Oath and Feud, Lawlessness
Despair Madness and Ruin — abstract
but all to real presences
with no purpose but to haunt mankind.

And in the same scroll he wrote
*...in the beginning before the beginning
chaos and before chaos time —
a many-headed ambiguous snake —
and necessity and before time
and necessity, clay and water.*