

The Mother of All

*Most beautiful of all the gods
Eros, loosener of limbs
- Hesiod*

The mother of all substantial beings
Earth, who with Tartaros,
Eros and Chaos always was,

of herself created Sky
who covered her continuously
thus keeping locked in

the hideous misshapen
malignant and unruly
broods their incestuous union occasioned

until she had her favorite son
remove the bung thus setting free
her polyamorous progeny —

gods men and things inbetween —
to copulate and populate
the world in their own images.

Ageless Abyss divulged Night
mother of all uncertainty
who of desire for 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 too real presences
with no purpose but to haunt mankind.

And in the same scroll is written
. . . 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.

