

## **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  
Pain 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.