

## A Letter to the Coventry Telegraph problem page

### How to look after our environment

Dear Demeter,

I am the mother of a family of five, and we live in Coventry.

We do our best to live a life as green as we can,  
reusing and recycling.

On a woodland walk, my daughter found an acorn on the ground  
she wants to plant it  
and she asked me will it grow?

She is so young, and the acorn sat small and infinite in her hand  
but I wonder, what do I say to her?

When scientists tell us our planet is at a tipping point

When the icecaps are melting at an astounding rate

and when animals are on the verge of extinction with some only faded memories in history books?

When the rivers in our green isle are choked with sewage and the seas drowning in plastic?

When the lush rainforests are logged and pillaged and orangutans driven out of their homes?

When we shiver and boil in intemperate seasons as the world warms and cools and as our skies turn  
shades of grey

And whilst tempests and tornadoes lash the planet and flood water rises?

How do I respond to her when our politicians act only in fear of the ballot box

and do not stand up to polluters or act to preserve our planet?

What do I do when the oil companies wallow in their billions whilst the spectres of food and fuel  
poverty haunt us all?

What should I do?

Desperately,

Persephone

Dearest Persephone,

Do the things that are in your power

Take strength

Act in hope

Plant the acorn

Demeter

Helen Mosley