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A Biblical Sonnet: To Rachel

Marilyn Nelson

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A Biblical Sonnet To Rachel

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days, for the love he had to her.

Genesis 29:20

Your voice ran lithe as lions through my blood;
My limbs would lift and liven with your gaze.
Your eyes, so deep, spilled darkness like a flood
(Such dark would soothe a thousand garish days).
Each sun came up, and each one was your smile,
And long and long the wheat fields waved like hair.
The wind was light, and every pleasant while
the thought of you would fill my chest like air.
You pulled so strong that even time was bent
and curved beneath the power of your grace,
and all was end and endless where you went—
I marked the days by sunlight on your face.
So years were born, and flashed like gold, and died—
My heart could sing forever by your side.

—Marilyn Nelson