

Spiritual Black History Poems

The Black Christ

I

GOD'S glory and my country's shame,
And how one man who cursed Christ's
name

May never fully expiate
That crime till at the Blessed Gate
Of Heaven He meet and pardon me
Out of His love and charity;
How God, who needs no man's applause,
For love of my stark soul, of flaws
Composed, seeing it slip, did stoop
Down to the mire and pick me up,
And in the hollow of His hand
Enact again at my command
The world's supremest tragedy,
Until I die my burthen be;
How Calvary in Palestine,
Extending down to me and mine,
Was but the first leaf in a line
Of trees on which a Man should swing
World without end, in suffering
For all men's healing, let me sing.

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Spiritual Black History Poems: A Journey Through Faith and Resilience

For centuries, poetry has served as a powerful voice for the Black community, a testament to resilience, faith, and the enduring spirit in the face of adversity. This post delves into the rich

tapestry of spiritual Black history poems, exploring their historical context, thematic elements, and the profound impact they've had on shaping Black identity and cultural expression. We'll journey through the words of influential poets, uncovering the deep-seated spirituality that permeates their work and celebrates the unwavering hope found within the Black experience. Get ready to be moved, inspired, and profoundly connected to the powerful legacy of these poetic voices.

The Power of Poetry in the Black Experience

African American spirituals, often sung in secret during slavery, formed the bedrock of much of the poetic expression that followed. These songs, born from the depths of suffering and yearning for freedom, laid the groundwork for a distinctly Black poetic voice. The rhythm and emotional intensity of spirituals found their way into later poems, providing a powerful framework for conveying the complexities of faith, hope, and struggle.

Early Influences and the Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance (roughly 1920s-1930s) witnessed an explosion of Black artistic expression, including poetry. Figures like Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and Countee Cullen, among others, infused their work with a potent blend of spirituality and social commentary. Their poems often explored themes of racial identity, religious faith, and the search for self-definition within a society riddled with prejudice and inequality. The spiritual element in their work was not always explicitly religious, but rather a reflection of the inner strength and community found in shared faith and cultural heritage.

Exploring Themes in Spiritual Black History Poems

Many spiritual Black history poems revolve around several key thematic elements:

Faith and Perseverance:

Poems often depict faith as a source of strength during times of oppression. The unwavering belief in a higher power provided solace and hope amidst hardship, fueling perseverance and resistance. This faith wasn't passive; it was actively engaged, a driving force for social change and a testament to the indomitable human spirit.

Freedom and Liberation:

The yearning for freedom, both physical and spiritual, is a recurring motif. Poems articulate the desire for liberation from slavery, segregation, and systemic injustice. This longing for freedom extends beyond the physical realm to encompass liberation from internalized oppression and the attainment of self-actualization.

Community and Solidarity:

The collective experience of the Black community is central to many poems. The themes of solidarity, mutual support, and shared struggle are powerfully depicted, highlighting the strength found in unity and collective action. This emphasis on community underscores the importance of shared faith and resilience in overcoming adversity.

Hope and Resilience:

Despite the challenges faced, hope consistently shines through. The enduring spirit of the Black community is expressed through a persistent belief in a brighter future, a resilience born from generations of struggle and perseverance. This hope fuels the fight for justice and equality, providing a powerful counterpoint to the harsh realities of oppression.

Modern Interpretations and Contemporary Voices

The legacy of spiritual Black history poems continues to inspire contemporary Black poets. Modern interpretations often build upon the established themes, exploring new facets of faith, resilience, and social justice within the context of contemporary challenges. The voices of contemporary Black poets offer fresh perspectives, enriching the ongoing conversation about identity, spirituality, and the Black experience.

The Enduring Legacy

The impact of spiritual Black history poems is undeniable. These poems have not only preserved the historical experiences of the Black community but have also served as a powerful catalyst for social change, inspiring generations to strive for justice and equality. Their enduring power lies in their ability to connect with readers on a deeply emotional level, fostering empathy, understanding, and a shared commitment to creating a more just and equitable world. By studying and appreciating these poems, we gain a deeper understanding of the strength, resilience, and unwavering faith that have defined the Black experience throughout history.

Conclusion

The exploration of spiritual Black history poems reveals a profound and powerful legacy of artistic expression interwoven with faith, resilience, and the ongoing struggle for liberation. These poems offer a window into the soul of a community, demonstrating the enduring power of the human spirit

in the face of adversity and the enduring significance of faith as a source of strength and hope. By continuing to engage with this rich literary heritage, we honor the voices of the past and contribute to a more just and equitable future.

FAQs

1. Where can I find collections of spiritual Black history poems? Many libraries and bookstores carry anthologies of African American poetry, and online resources like the Poetry Foundation website offer a wealth of poems and information.
2. Are there specific poets I should start with to learn more about this topic? Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Countee Cullen, and Gwendolyn Brooks are excellent starting points. Exploring contemporary poets will further broaden your understanding.
3. How do these poems relate to the spirituals sung during slavery? The themes and rhythms often reflect the emotional intensity and spiritual longing found in those spirituals, serving as a direct continuation of that oral tradition.
4. What is the role of faith in these poems? Faith is often depicted as a source of strength, hope, and perseverance in the face of hardship and oppression. It provides a foundation for resilience and a belief in a better future.
5. How can I use these poems in educational settings? These poems offer rich opportunities for exploring themes of history, identity, faith, and social justice within classrooms, fostering critical thinking and promoting empathy.

spiritual black history poems: Hey Black Child Useni Eugene Perkins, 2017-11-14 Six-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier brings this classic, inspirational poem to life, written by poet Useni Eugene Perkins. Hey black child, Do you know who you are? Who really are? Do you know you can be What you want to be If you try to be What you can be? This lyrical, empowering poem celebrates black children and seeks to inspire all young people to dream big and achieve their goals.

spiritual black history poems: *Mother* Maya Angelou, 2006-04-11 Perfect for Mother's Day, or for any day on which we wish to acknowledge this all-important bond, *Mother* is an awe-inspiring affirmation of the enduring love that exists in every corner of the globe. With her signature eloquence and heartfelt appreciation, renowned poet and national treasure Maya Angelou celebrates the first woman we ever knew: Mother. "You were always the heart of happiness to me," she acknowledges in this loving tribute, "Bringing nougats of glee / Sweets of open laughter." From the beginnings of this profound relationship through teenage rebellion and, finally, to adulthood, where we stand to inherit timeless maternal wisdom, Angelou praises the patience, knowledge, and compassion of this remarkable parent.

spiritual black history poems: I Am a Black Woman Mari Evans, 1970

spiritual black history poems: Black Indian Shonda Buchanan, 2019-08-26 A moving memoir exploring one family's legacy of African Americans with American Indian roots. Finalist, 2024 American Legacy Book Awards, *Autobiography/Memoir* *Black Indian*, searing and raw, is Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* and Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* meets Leslie Marmon Silko's

Ceremony—only, this isn't fiction. Beautifully rendered and rippling with family dysfunction, secrets, deaths, alcoholism, and old resentments, Shonda Buchanan's memoir is an inspiring story that explores her family's legacy of being African Americans with American Indian roots and how they dealt with not just society's ostracization but the consequences of this dual inheritance. Buchanan was raised as a Black woman, who grew up hearing cherished stories of her multi-racial heritage, while simultaneously suffering from everything she (and the rest of her family) didn't know. Tracing the arduous migration of Mixed Bloods, or Free People of Color, from the Southeast to the Midwest, Buchanan tells the story of her Michigan tribe—a comedic yet manically depressed family of fierce women, who were everything from caretakers and cornbread makers to poets and witches, and men who were either ignored, protected, imprisoned, or maimed—and how their lives collided over love, failure, fights, and prayer despite a stacked deck of challenges, including addiction and abuse. Ultimately, Buchanan's nomadic people endured a collective identity crisis after years of constantly straddling two, then three, races. The physical, spiritual, and emotional displacement of American Indians who met and married Mixed or Black slaves and indentured servants at America's early crossroads is where this powerful journey begins. Black India doesn't have answers, nor does it aim to represent every American's multi-ethnic experience. Instead, it digs as far down into this one family's history as it can go—sometimes, with a bit of discomfort. But every family has its own truth, and Buchanan's search for hers will resonate with anyone who has wondered maybe there's more than what I'm being told.

spiritual black history poems: Being Brought from Africa to America - The Best of Phillis Wheatley Phillis Wheatley, 2020-07-31 Phillis Wheatley (c. 1753-1784) was an American freed slave and poet who wrote the first book of poetry by an African-American. Sold into a slavery in West Africa at the age of around seven, she was taken to North America where she served the Wheatley family of Boston. Phillis was tutored in reading and writing by Mary, the Wheatleys' 18-year-old daughter, and was reading Latin and Greek classics from the age of twelve. Encouraged by the progressive Wheatleys who recognised her incredible literary talent, she wrote "To the University of Cambridge" when she was 14 and by 20 had found patronage in the form of Selina Hastings, Countess of Huntingdon. Her works garnered acclaim in both England and the colonies and she became the first African American to make a living as a poet. This volume contains a collection of Wheatley's best poetry, including the titular poem "Being Brought from Africa to America". Contents include: "Phillis Wheatley", "Phillis Wheatley by Benjamin Brawley", "To Maecenas", "On Virtue", "To the University of Cambridge", "To the King's Most Excellent Majesty", "On Being Brought from Africa to America", "On the Death of the Rev. Dr. Sewell", "On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield", etc. Ragged Hand is proudly publishing this brand new collection of classic poetry with a specially-commissioned biography of the author.

spiritual black history poems: Life Doesn't Frighten Me (25th Anniversary Edition) Maya Angelou, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Sara Jane Boyers, 2018-01-09 Shadows on the wall Noises down the hall Life doesn't frighten me at all Maya Angelou's brave, defiant poem celebrates the courage within each of us, young and old. From the scary thought of panthers in the park to the unsettling scene of a new classroom, fearsome images are summoned and dispelled by the power of faith in ourselves. Angelou's strong words are matched by the daring vision of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose childlike style reveals the powerful emotions and fanciful imaginings of childhood. Together, Angelou's words and Basquiat's paintings create a place where every child, indeed every person, may experience his or her own fearlessness. Celebrating its successful 25 years in print, this brilliant introduction to poetry and contemporary art features brief, updated biographies of Angelou and Basquiat, an afterword from the editor, and a fresh new look. A selected bibliography of Angelou's books and a selected museum listing of Basquiat's works open the door to further inspiration through the fine arts.

spiritual black history poems: The Poems of Phillis Wheatley Phillis Wheatley, 2012-03-15 At the age of 19, Phillis Wheatley was the first black American poet to publish a book. Her elegies and odes offer fascinating glimpses of the beginnings of African-American literary traditions.

Includes a selection from the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

spiritual black history poems: *Black Nature* Camille T. Dungy, 2009 *Black Nature* is the first anthology to focus on nature writing by African American poets, a genre that until now has not commonly been counted as one in which African American poets have participated. Black poets have a long tradition of incorporating treatments of the natural world into their work, but it is often read as political, historical, or protest poetry--anything but nature poetry. This is particularly true when the definition of what constitutes nature writing is limited to work about the pastoral or the wild. Camille T. Dungy has selected 180 poems from 93 poets that provide unique perspectives on American social and literary history to broaden our concept of nature poetry and African American poetics. This collection features major writers such as Phillis Wheatley, Rita Dove, Yusef Komunyakaa, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sterling Brown, Robert Hayden, Wanda Coleman, Natasha Trethewey, and Melvin B. Tolson as well as newer talents such as Douglas Kearney, Major Jackson, and Janice Harrington. Included are poets writing out of slavery, Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century African American poetic movements. *Black Nature* brings to the fore a neglected and vital means of considering poetry by African Americans and nature-related poetry as a whole. A Friends Fund Publication.

spiritual black history poems: *The Birth of All Things* Marcus Amaker, 2020-06-02 Masculinity doesn't have to be toxic, but some men choose to put poison on their tongue ... *The Birth Of All Things* is an eclectic mix of poems from Marcus Amaker, the first Poet Laureate of Charleston, SC. This personal collection delivers poems about a wide range of topics: life as a new dad, racism in America, Bjork, anxiety, Star Wars, masculinity, pandemics, black music, history, and more. Amaker is an award-winning graphic designer, musician, and performance poet. *The Birth Of All Things* is the sum of all of his talents. The book features an original illustration from Florida artist Nick Davis.

spiritual black history poems: *Poetry for Kids: William Shakespeare* William Shakespeare, Marguerite Tassi, 2018-04-04 Love! Betrayal! Ambition! Tragedy! Jealousy! William Shakespeare's universal themes continue to resonate with readers of all ages more than 400 years after his death. This wonderful, fully illustrated book introduces children to the Bard and more than thirty of his most famous and accessible verses, sonnets, and speeches. From "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" to "O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!" and "All the world's a stage," the words and poetry of the greatest playwright and poet spring to life on the page. The next generation of readers, poets, and actors will be entranced by these works of Shakespeare. Each poem is illustrated and includes an explanation by an expert and definitions of important words to give kids and parents the fullest explanation of their content and impact. An enticing entree to the glories of Shakespeare's verse. —Kirkus Reviews A richly illustrated selection of 31 poems and excerpts from Shakespeare's most popular works. The selected writings provide a fantastic scope of Shakespeare's oeuvre. ... López's illustrations are intricate, dramatic, and moody; they help bring life and meaning to the words. —School Library Journal

spiritual black history poems: *The Book of American Negro Poetry* James Weldon Johnson, 2009-01-01 The work of James Weldon Johnson (1871 - 1938) inspired and encouraged the artists of the Harlem Renaissance, a movement in which he himself was an important figure. Johnson was active in almost every aspect of American civil life and became one of the first African-American professors at New York University. He is best remembered for his writing, which questions, celebrates and commemorates his experience as an African-American.

spiritual black history poems: *Modern African American Poets* Yasser K. R. Aman, 2018-10-29 This book consists of eight chapters covering poets from the Harlem Renaissance until the present day. It considers the Harlem Renaissance poets Hughes and Cullen from new perspectives, with regards to two psychological types: self-acceptance and self-dejection. The first two chapters discuss Hughes' and Cullen's expression of race relations and the way they protest. Chapter three on Roscoe C. Jamison represents unheard voices, while the fourth chapter, focusing on Ai, analyzes multi-ethnic roots and dissects American society, highlighting the reasons for violence and sexual hunger.

Chapter five on Nikky Finney, a representative of Affrilachian poetry and a political activist, focuses on different social and political issues. Chapters six and seven discuss the application of Dual Inheritance Theory on African American and Afro-German poetry. Chapter eight tackles the ongoing effort of redefining black womanhood, with specific emphasis on Morgan Parker.

spiritual black history poems: *The Vintage Book of African American Poetry* Michael S. Harper, Anthony Walton, 2012-02-01 In *The Vintage Book of African American Poetry*, editors Michael S. Harper and Anthony Walton present the definitive collection of black verse in the United States--200 years of vision, struggle, power, beauty, and triumph from 52 outstanding poets. From the neoclassical stylings of slave-born Phillis Wheatley to the wistful lyricism of Paul Lawrence Dunbar . . . the rigorous wisdom of Gwendolyn Brooks...the chiseled modernism of Robert Hayden...the extraordinary prosody of Sterling A. Brown...the breathtaking, expansive narratives of Rita Dove...the plaintive rhapsodies of an imprisoned Elderidge Knight . . . The postmodern artistry of Yusef Komunyakaa. Here, too, is a landmark exploration of lesser-known artists whose efforts birthed the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts movements--and changed forever our national literature and the course of America itself. Meticulously researched, thoughtfully structured, *The Vintage Book of African-American Poetry* is a collection of inestimable value to students, educators, and all those interested in the ever-evolving tradition that is American poetry.

spiritual black history poems: Who's Afraid of Black Indians? Shonda Buchanan, 2012-09-01

spiritual black history poems: Mutiny Phillip B. Williams, 2021-09-07 Winner of the 2022 American Book Award Finalist for the PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry Longlisted for the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award Finalist for Publishing Triangle's Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry Named one of the Best Books of 2021 by The Boston Globe and Lit Hub From the critically acclaimed author of *Thief in the Interior* who writes with a lucid, unmitigated humanity (Boston Review), a startling new collection about revolt and renewal *Mutiny*: a rebellion, a subversion, an onslaught. In poems that rebuke classical mythos and western canonical figures, and embrace Afro-Diasporanfolk and spiritual imagery, Phillip B. Williams conjures the hell of being erased, exploited, and ill-imagined and then, through a force and generosity of vision, propels himself into life, selfhood, and a path forward. Intimate, bold, and sonically mesmerizing, *Mutiny* addresses loneliness, desire, doubt, memory, and the borderline between beauty and tragedy. With a ferocity that belies the tenderness and vulnerability at the heart of this remarkable collection, Williams honors the transformative power of anger, and the clarity that comes from allowing that anger to burn clean.

spiritual black history poems: City of Bones Kwame Dawes, 2017-01-15 As if convinced that all divination of the future is somehow a re-visioning of the past, Kwame Dawes reminds us of the clairvoyance of haunting. The lyric poems in *City of Bones: A Testament* constitute a restless jeremiad for our times, and Dawes's inimitable voice peoples this collection with multitudes of souls urgently and forcefully singing, shouting, groaning, and dreaming about the African diasporic present and future. As the twentieth collection in the poet's hallmarked career, *City of Bones* reaches a pinnacle, adding another chapter to the grand narrative of invention and discovery cradled in the art of empathy that has defined his prodigious body of work. Dawes's formal mastery is matched only by the precision of his insights into what is at stake in our lives today. These poems are shot through with music from the drum to reggae to the blues to jazz to gospel, proving that Dawes is the ambassador of words and worlds.

spiritual black history poems: Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral Phillis Wheatley, 1887

spiritual black history poems: The Spiritual Poems of Rumi Rumi, 2020-09-15 *The Spiritual Poems of Rumi* is a beautiful and elegantly illustrated gift book of Rumi's spiritual poems translated by Nader Khalili, geared for readers searching for a stronger spiritual core.

spiritual black history poems: Bars Fight Lucy Terry Prince, 2020-10-01 *Bars Fight*, a ballad telling the tale of an ambush by Native Americans on two families in 1746 in a Massachusetts meadow, is the oldest known work by an African-American author. Passed on orally until it was

recorded in Josiah Gilbert Holland's History of Western Massachusetts in 1855, the ballad is a landmark in the history of literature that should be on every book lover's shelves.

spiritual black history poems: *Spiritual, Blues, and Jazz People in African American Fiction* A. Yemisi Jimoh, 2002 Jimoh (English, U. of Arkansas-Fayetteville) investigates African American intracultural issues that inform a more broadly intertextual use of music in creating characters and themes in fiction by US black writers. Conventional close readings of texts, she argues, often miss historical-sociopolitical discourses that can illuminate African American narratives. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

spiritual black history poems: *The Negro* William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, 1915

spiritual black history poems: *Storm Toward Morning* Malachi Black, 2016-03-21 To be both visionary and accurate, true to physics and metaphysics at the same time, is rare and puts the poet in some rarefied company. Black, like a few other younger poets, is willing to include all the traditional effects of the lyric poem in his work, but he has set them going in new and lively ways, with the confidence of virtuosity and a belief in the ancient pleasures of pattern and repetition.—Mark Jarman, American Poet Lush and daring, Malachi Black's poems in *Storm Toward Morning* press all points along the spectrum of human positions, from sickness, isolation, and insomniac disarray to serenity, wonder, and spiritual yearning. Pulsing at the intersections of eye and I, body and mind, physical and metaphysical, Black brings distinctive voice, vision, and music to matters of universal mortal concern. Query on Typography What is the light inside the opening of every letter: white behind the angles is a language bright because a curvature of space inside a line is visible is script a sign of what it does or does not occupy scripture the covenant of eye and I with word or what the word defines which is source and which is shrine the light of body or the light behind? Malachi Black holds a BA in literature from New York University and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Texas at Austin's Michener Center for Writers. His poems have appeared in AGNI, Boston Review, Ploughshares, and Poetry. He currently teaches at the University of San Diego and lives in California.

spiritual black history poems: *A History of African American Poetry* Lauri Ramey, 2019-03-21 Offers a critical history of African American poetry from the transatlantic slave trade to present day hip-hop.

spiritual black history poems: *Langston's Salvation* Wallace D. Best, 2019-02-01 Winner of the 2018 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion in Textual Studies, presented by the American Academy of Religion 2018 Outstanding Academic Title, given by Choice Magazine A new perspective on the role of religion in the work of Langston Hughes *Langston's Salvation* offers a fascinating exploration into the religious thought of Langston Hughes. Known for his poetry, plays, and social activism, the importance of religion in Hughes' work has historically been ignored or dismissed. This book puts this aspect of Hughes work front and center, placing it into the wider context of twentieth-century American and African American religious cultures. Best brings to life the religious orientation of Hughes work, illuminating how this powerful figure helped to expand the definition of African American religion during this time. Best argues that contrary to popular perception, Hughes was neither an avowed atheist nor unconcerned with religious matters. He demonstrates that Hughes' religious writing helps to situate him and other black writers as important participants in a broader national discussion about race and religion in America. Through a rigorous analysis that includes attention to Hughes's unpublished religious poems, *Langston's Salvation* reveals new insights into Hughes's body of work, and demonstrates that while Hughes is seen as one of the most important voices of the Harlem Renaissance, his writing also needs to be understood within the context of twentieth-century American religious liberalism and of the larger modernist movement. Combining historical and literary analyses with biographical explorations of Langston Hughes as a writer and individual, *Langston's Salvation* opens a space to read Langston Hughes' writing religiously, in order to fully understand the writer and the world he inhabited.

spiritual black history poems: *Magical Negro* Morgan Parker, 2019-02-05 A National Book Critics Circle Poetry Award Winner! From the breakout author of *There Are More Beautiful Things*

Than Beyoncé comes a profound and deceptively funny exploration of Black American womanhood. Morgan Parker's latest collection is a riveting testimony to everyday blackness . . . It is wry and atmospheric, an epic work of aural pleasures and personifications that demands to be read—both as an account of a private life and as searing political protest. —TIME Magazine A Best Book of 2019 at TIME, Elle, BuzzFeed, the Star Tribune, AVClub, and more. A Most Anticipated Book of 2019 at Vogue, O: the Oprah Magazine, NYLON, BuzzFeed, Publishers Weekly, and more. *Magical Negro* is an archive of black everydayness, a catalog of contemporary folk heroes, an ethnography of ancestral grief, and an inventory of figureheads, idioms, and customs. These American poems are both elegy and jive, joke and declaration, songs of congregation and self-conception. They connect themes of loneliness, displacement, grief, ancestral trauma, and objectification, while exploring and troubling tropes and stereotypes of Black Americans. Focused primarily on depictions of black womanhood alongside personal narratives, the collection tackles interior and exterior politics—of both the body and society, of both the individual and the collective experience. In *Magical Negro*, Parker creates a space of witness, of airing grievances, of pointing out patterns. In these poems are living documents, pleas, latent traumas, inside jokes, and unspoken anxieties situated as firmly in the past as in the present—timeless black melancholies and triumphs.

spiritual black history poems: *The God Factor* Cathleen Falsani, 2006-03-07 When religion reporter Cathleen Falsani climbed aboard Bono's tour bus, it was to interview the rock star about AIDS awareness. Instead, they plunged into a lively discussion about faith. This is a defining moment for us, Bono said. For the culture we live in. Spirituality clearly now plays a key role in the United States. But what is also clear is that faith is a more complex issue than snapshots of the country convey. Jesus. Buddha. Kabbalah. Angels. This may be a nation of believers but not of one belief—of many. To shape a candid picture of modern faith, Falsani sat down with an array of people who shape our culture, and in turn, our collective consciousness. She's talked about Jesus with Anne Rice; explored Playboy theology with Hugh Hefner; discussed evil with crusading attorney Barry Scheck, and heaven with Senator Barack Obama. Laura Esquivel, basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon, Studs Terkel, guru Iyanla Vanzant, rockers Melissa Etheridge and Annie Lennox, economist Jeffrey Sachs, Pulitzer-winning playwright John Patrick Shanley—all opened up to her. The resulting interviews, more than twenty-five in all, offer a fresh, occasionally controversial, and always illuminating look at the beliefs that shape our lives. *THE GOD FACTOR* is a book for the believers, the seekers, as well as the merely curious among us. Included are interviews with Sherman Alexie, Bono, Dusty Baker, Sandra Bernhard, Sandra Cisneros, Billy Corgan, Kurt Elling, Laura Esquivel, Melissa Etheridge, Jonathan Safran Foer, Mike Gerson, Seamus Heaney, Hugh Hefner, Dr. Henry Lee, Annie Lennox, David Lynch, John Mahoney, Mark Morris, Mancow Muller, Senator Barack Obama, Hakeem Olajuwon, Harold Ramis, Anne Rice, Tom Robbins, Russell Simmons, Jeffrey Sachs, Barry Scheck, John Patrick Shanley, The Reverend Al Sharpton, Studs Terkel, Iyanla Vanzant, and Elie Wiesel.

spiritual black history poems: *God's Trombones* James Weldon Johnson, 1927 The inspirational sermons of the old Negro preachers are set down as poetry in this collection -- a classic for more than forty years, frequently dramatized, recorded, and anthologized. Mr. Johnson tells in his preface of hearing these same themes treated by famous preachers in his youth; some of the sermons are still current, and like the spirituals they have taken a significant place in black folk art. In transmuting their essence into original and moving poetry, the author has also ensured the survival of a great oral tradition. Book jacket.

spiritual black history poems: *I Am An African* Wayne Visser, 2012-12-06 This creative collection brings together Africa poems by South African poet and writer, Wayne Visser, including the ever popular *I Am An African*, as well as old favourites like *Women of Africa*, *I Know A Place in Africa*, *Prayer for Africa* and *African Dream*. The anthology celebrates the luminous continent and its rainbow people. The updated 5th Edition includes new poems like *Africa Untamed* and *Land of the Sun*.

spiritual black history poems: *Poems on Slavery* Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1842

spiritual black history poems: Poems and Letters Phillis Wheatley, 1993

spiritual black history poems: Two-headed Woman Lucille Clifton, 1980

spiritual black history poems: Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral Phillis Wheatley, 1887

spiritual black history poems: Blue Horses Mary Oliver, 2014-10-14 In this stunning collection of new poems, Mary Oliver returns to the imagery that has defined her life's work, describing with wonder both the everyday and the unaffected beauty of nature. Herons, sparrows, owls, and kingfishers flit across the page in meditations on love, artistry, and impermanence. Whether considering a bird's nest, the seeming patience of oak trees, or the artworks of Franz Marc, Oliver reminds us of the transformative power of attention and how much can be contained within the smallest moments. At its heart, *Blue Horses* asks what it means to truly belong to this world, to live in it attuned to all its changes. Humorous, gentle, and always honest, Oliver is a visionary of the natural world.

spiritual black history poems: Heed the Hollow Malcolm Tariq, 2019-11-05 The stirring debut from the winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, selected and introduced by Chris Abani *Heed the Hollow* introduces the work of Malcolm Tariq, whose poems explore the concept of "the bottom" across blackness, sexuality, and the American South. These lyrics of queer desire meet the voices of enslaved ancestors to reckon with a lineage of trauma that manifests as silence, pain, and haunting memories, but also as want and love. In bops, lyrics, and erasures, *Heed the Hollow* tells of a heritage anchored to the landscape of the coastal South, to seawalls shaped by forced labor, and to the people "marked into the bottom / of history where then now / we find no shadow of life." From that shadow, the voices in these poems make their own brightness, reclaiming their histories from a language that evolved to exclude them.

spiritual black history poems: *The Creation (25th Anniversary Edition)* James Weldon Johnson, 2018-10-02 An award-winning retelling of the Biblical creation story from a star of the Harlem Renaissance and an acclaimed illustrator James Weldon Johnson, author of the civil rights anthem *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*, wrote this beautiful Bible-learning story in 1922, at the height of the Harlem Renaissance. Set in the Deep South, *The Creation* alternates breathtaking scenes from Genesis with images of a country preacher under a tree retelling the story for children. The exquisite detail of James E. Ransome's sun-dappled paintings and the sophisticated rhythm of the free verse pay tribute to Black American oral traditions of country sermonizing and storytelling: As far as the eye of God could see/ Darkness covered everything/ Blacker than a hundred midnights/ Down in a cypress swamp. . . . This beautiful new edition of the classic Coretta Scott King Award winner features a fresh, modern design, a reimagined cover, and an introduction of the remarkable life of James Weldon Johnson. Beneath the dust jacket, the case features a detail of Ransome's beautiful night sky, spangled with stars. A Junior Library Guild selection!

spiritual black history poems: *Teach Living Poets* Lindsay Illich, Melissa Alter Smith, 2021 *Teach Living Poets* opens up the flourishing world of contemporary poetry to secondary teachers, giving advice on reading contemporary poetry, discovering new poets, and inviting living poets into the classroom, as well as sharing sample lessons, writing prompts, and ways to become an engaged member of a professional learning community. The #TeachLivingPoets approach, which has grown out of the vibrant movement and community founded by high school teacher Melissa Alter Smith and been codeveloped with poet and scholar Lindsay Illich, offers rich opportunities for students to improve critical reading and writing, opportunities for self-expression and social-emotional learning, and, perhaps the most desirable outcome, the opportunity to fall in love with language and discover (or renew) their love of reading. The many poems included in *Teach Living Poets* are representative of the diverse poets writing today.

spiritual black history poems: *Requiem* Kwame Senu Neville Dawes, 1996 In these 'shrines of remembrance' for the millions of the victims of transatlantic slavery, Kwame Dawes constructs a sequence which laments, rages, mourns, but also celebrates survival. Focusing on individual moments in this holocaust which lasted nearly four hundred years, these poems both cauterize a

lingering infection and offer the oil of healing. In these taut lyric pieces, Dawes achieves what might seem impossible: saying something fresh about a subject which, despite attempts at historical amnesia, will not go away. He does it by eschewing sentimentality, rant or playing to the audience, black or white. His poems go to the heart of the historical experience and its contemporary reverberations. This sequence was inspired by the award-winning book, *The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo* by the American artist Tom Feelings.

spiritual black history poems: Discover the Power Within You Eric Butterworth, 2010-05-15 The fortieth anniversary edition of the inspirational classic—with a foreword by Maya Angelou. "This book changed my perspective on life and religion." —Oprah Winfrey In the newest edition of Eric Butterworth's inspiring tour de force, the author shares the greatest discovery of all time: the ability to see the divine within us all. Jesus saw this divine dimension in every human being, and Butterworth reveals this hidden and untapped resource to be a source of limitless abundance. Exploring this "depth potential," Butterworth outlines ways in which we can release the power locked within us for better health, greater confidence, increased success, and inspired openness to let our "light shine" forth for others. "A wonderful book . . . truly a life-changer, as many readers know. This book really does release the power within us all." —Norman Vincent Peale "For many, this book will be an answer in itself. For many more, it will open doors to ever-richer depths." —Ira Progoff, Founder, Intensive Journal Program for Self Development

spiritual black history poems: Poems of Healing Karl Kirchwey, 2021-03-30 A remarkable Pocket Poets anthology of poems from around the world and across the centuries about illness and healing, both physical and spiritual. From ancient Greece and Rome up to the present moment, poets have responded with sensitivity and insight to the troubles of the human body and mind. *Poems of Healing* gathers a treasury of such poems, tracing the many possible journeys of physical and spiritual illness, injury, and recovery, from John Donne's "Hymne to God My God, In My Sicknesse" and Emily Dickinson's "The Soul has Bandaged moments" to Eavan Boland's "Anorexic," from W.H. Auden's "Miss Gee" to Lucille Clifton's "Cancer," and from D.H. Lawrence's "The Ship of Death" to Rafael Campo's "Antidote" and Seamus Heaney's "Miracle." Here are poems from around the world, by Sappho, Milton, Baudelaire, Longfellow, Cavafy, and Omar Khayyam; by Stevens, Lowell, and Plath; by Zbigniew Herbert, Louise Bogan, Yehuda Amichai, Mark Strand, and Natalia Toledo. Messages of hope in the midst of pain—in such moving poems as Adam Zagajewski's "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," George Herbert's "The Flower," Wisława Szymborska's "The End and the Beginning," Gwendolyn Brooks' "when you have forgotten Sunday: the love story" and Stevie Smith's "Away, Melancholy"—make this the perfect gift to accompany anyone on a journey of healing. Everyman's Library pursues the highest production standards, printing on acid-free cream-colored paper, with full-cloth cases with two-color foil stamping, decorative endpapers, silk ribbon markers, European-style half-round spines, and a full-color illustrated jacket.

spiritual black history poems: Hoodwitch Faylita Hicks, 2019 This riveting debut from poet Faylita Hicks is a reclamation of power for black women and nonbinary people whose bodies have become the very weapons used against them. *HoodWitch* tells the story of a young person who discovers that they are something that can & will survive / a whole century of hunt. Through a series of poems based on childhood photographs, Hicks invokes the spirits of mothers and daughters, sex workers and widows, to conjure an alternative to their own early deaths and the deaths of those whom they have already lost. In this collection about resilience, Hicks speaks about giving her child up for adoption, mourning the death of her fiancé, and embracing the nonbinary femme body--persevering in the face of medical malpractice, domestic abuse, and police violence. The poems find people transformed, remade out of smoke & iron into cyborgs and wolves, machines and witches--beings capable of seeking justice in a world that refuses them the option. Exploring the intersections of Christianity, modern mysticism, and Afrofuturism in a sometimes urban, sometimes natural setting, Hicks finds a place where everyone everywhere is hands in the air, where you know they gonna push & pull it together. / Just like they learned to. It is a place of natural magick--where someone like Hicks can have more than one name: where they can be both dead and alive, both a

mortal and a god.

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