

## Celebration

(after reading bell hooks' *remembered rapture: the writer at work*, 1999)

By Kendra N. Bryant | May 6, 2018

we  
write here

claiming our space in choreographed words  
patterned to move spirit  
thru morning pulses<sup>i</sup> & hanging fire<sup>ii</sup>

ego tripping<sup>iii</sup>  
into the majesty of our oneness  
our coming together in a comingtogetherness<sup>iv</sup>  
we real cool<sup>v</sup>  
phenomenal women<sup>vi</sup>  
tall as a cypress<sup>vii</sup>  
having found our mothers' gardens<sup>viii</sup>  
& taking root there  
where bein alive & bein a woman & bein colored  
is no more a metaphysical dilemma to be conquered<sup>ix</sup> / for

we  
write here,  
I say

entering our shadow self  
thru words of fire<sup>x</sup>  
forging spiritual character  
that makes complexity clear  
& reality confrontable

composing under soprano skies<sup>xi</sup>  
we breakin silence  
throwin down  
gettin ovah  
& high steppin  
into a movement in Black<sup>xii</sup> that promises  
a second generation of courage  
a people loving freedom  
& a beauty full of healing<sup>xiii</sup>

born in a bed of good lessons<sup>xiv</sup>  
we

write here  
are the ones we have been waiting for<sup>xv</sup>

so you—  
over there—  
come here!  
come fold urself in these words unfolding rapture  
& be made new

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<sup>i</sup> See Maya Angelou's 1993 Presidential Inauguration poem, "On the Pulse of Morning"

<sup>ii</sup> See Audre Lorde's poem, "Hanging Fire," 1997

<sup>iii</sup> Title of Nikki Giovanni's, 1968 poem, "Ego Tripping (there may be a reason why)"

<sup>iv</sup> Lines from Mari Evans' 1964 poem, "Who Can Be Born Black?"

<sup>v</sup> Title (& line) from Gwendolyn Brooks' 1963 poem, "We Real Cool"

<sup>vi</sup> Title of Maya Angelou's 1978 poem, "Phenomenal Woman"

<sup>vii</sup> Line from Mari Evans' 1970 poem, "I Am A Black Woman"

<sup>viii</sup> See Alice Walker's *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose*, 1983

<sup>ix</sup> Lines from Ntozake Shange's 1975 choreopoem, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*

<sup>x</sup> Title of Beverly Guy-Sheftall's anthology, *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African American Feminist Thought*, 1995

<sup>xi</sup> Title of Sonia Sanchez's 1987 poetry collection, *Under a Soprano Sky*

<sup>xii</sup> Title (& recurring verse) in Pat Parker's *Movement in Black*, 1978

<sup>xiii</sup> Lines from Margaret Walker's 1942 poem, "For My People"

<sup>xiv</sup> Line from Lucille Clifton's 1987 poem, "my poem"

<sup>xv</sup> Line from June Jordan's 1978 poem, "Poem for South African Women"