

TATIANA JOHNSON-BORIA

Black Womxn Are Violets

after Alice Dunbar-Nelson

wild wistful¹
lovers wander
the fields²

perfumed and deadening³
far from sweet
clear perfect loneliness

god⁴ made
wild violets
heaven mounting
dreams

¹ in which the body once existed. in which the ashes swallowed breathing. in which something lived yearning for sound.

² expanse beckoning empty. folding itself into spell. protecting the ones forced into space, guided to rip the earth and self to ruin.

³ in which there is always a palm covering the gaping blackness of a mouth.

⁴ an origin, or ancestors, or root, or seed, or the uproot of it all.