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CAROL A. ADAMS

Jacob's Angel

He may have wept,
over struggles of his youth
before that cloud of dust on a plain
an all-night wrestling match
in a few feet of desert
you wouldn't look twice at
to make him the greatest figure of his age
straining in the darkness
until day-break.

He may have sometimes wondered
why he had to bear the sign
a love-knot planted in the hollow of his thigh
to last the rest of his life
and it occurs to me that something more
than a name change was going on here
more than the loss of his easy stroll.

Call it a rite of passage
he saw fit to mark with a stone,
when he stepped from the arena
swinging into a new stride
that beat out a victory march
through long shadows of history
proving that love goes far beyond
any affliction it cares to bestow

Carol A. Adams is widely published. Her poetry appears in a number of literary journals. She has also written a series of articles on the craft of poetry for the Canadian Writers Journal. A Glendon graduate, with majors in English, and creative writing, she now teaches English at Braemer International College in Toronto with her husband and two sons.