

# Light's Interrupted Amplitude

By Jay Wright

All summer connotations fill this light,  
a symmetry of different scales—the site  
of fibrous silence, the velvet lace  
of iris, alders the moon can ignite.  
One feels the amplitude of grief, the pace  
of oscillating stars, power in place  
where time has crossed and left a breathy stain.  
A body needs the weight and thrust of grace.  
I want to parse the logic, spin and domain,  
the structure mourning will allow, the grain  
of certainty in two estates, the dance  
of perfect order, flowing toward its plane.  
That bird you see has caught a proper stance,  
unfaithful to its measure, a pert mischance  
of divination on the move, the trace  
of sacred darkness true to light's advance.

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Jay Wright, an African-American poet, essayist, dramaturge, and theologian, was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Academy of American Poets awarded Wright the Fellowship for distinguished poetic achievement and in bestowing the award, J.D. McClatchy commented, "Jay Wright's books have appeared like summer lightning, sudden and unexpected, brilliant in the surrounding dark." He has written ten books of poetry and a play. Before he became a poet and studied comparative literature, he played semi-pro baseball with the San Diego Padres.

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