

# Grapes of Wrath



Snaking down  
towards the center of Mother Earth  
tendrils flared out  
becoming probing tributaries  
sweet nectar coursing through its veins  
that reach out to touch darkness.

The inky darkness flowed upward  
then out and up towards the sky  
like that ancient tree of old  
pure and sacred at first  
before its fruit became befouled  
by the touch of creatures with bad intent.

Their poisonous touch  
filtered back to the dark places below  
from whence they were spawn  
returning back up through unwholesome ventricles  
back up to the surface, returning the vile venom  
to the authors of its malevolence

with a vengeance.

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April 12, 2023  
(Wednesday)

DAY 12 PROMPT: Use the title of a book as the title of your poem.

Prompter's note: This could be the title of a book that's been on your shelf for a long time. On my shelf that could be anything from *Skin of the Sea*, to *The Book of Form and Emptiness*, to *Ancillary Justice*. You could use a title of a book I mentioned, or any of the titles on this [list](#). Any title really. Maybe a friend or partner could suggest it. The trick is that it has to be the title of a book that you haven't read, or that you don't remember well. The goal of the poem is not to write about the book that belongs to the title, but to use the title as a jumping off point, and take the poem in any direction you choose.

**Craft tip:** Often titles are the weakest parts of poems, and they are also what makes the first impression on the reader. When revising poems, make sure you also take the title into consideration. Try to find a title that can add another layer of meaning to the poem, rather than just serving as a placeholder.

CREDITS: Poem by [William Blake](#) entitled [A Poison Tree](#) (1794) appearing in a [flipbook](#) with cover art produced by [Winnie Albert Jarop](#); [The Grapes of Wrath](#) (1939) by [John Steinbeck](#) is the title prompt.

ABOUT 30 in 30: April is National Poetry Month. Poets participating in "30 in 30" strive to write at least one poem each day. The prompts for this series were provided by Ella Peary and Emily Harstone, hosts of a 2023 poetry workshop sponsored by [Authors Publish](#).