

1975

# Riding Back on a 30-Year-Old Tractor after Pulling out the Car I Drove into a Ditch, Watching Stars and Lightning from the Northwest

Philip Bryant

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in the  
Pharoah's heart: O Lord of every land  
shining forth for all:

Aten  
multi-single like the sun  
reflecting Him by Him

reflected.  
Anubis howled. The royal prophet reeled  
under the dazzling weight

of vision,  
exalted—maddened<sup>p</sup>—the spirit moving  
in his heart: Aten Jahveh Allah God.

**Riding Back on a 30-Year-Old Tractor After  
Pulling out the Car I Drove into a Ditch,  
Watching Stars and Lightning from the  
Northwest / Philip Bryant**

*for Warren*

Silent philosophy,  
you and me  
touching in the dark  
like two shadows married to each other.  
The noise of the tractor's engine  
drowns out the dishonesty of our words,  
the sky illuminates our faces into one vision;  
the moment has arrived.  
The tractor is moving down the road  
at a speed we can both understand.  
We join hands  
through the night like  
invisible brothers,  
twins with the same mother,  
the same god,  
the same body;  
and it's because we drive down this dirt  
road together.

It is because the lightning flashes through  
the black skin of the night,  
lighting the way before us,  
it is because the rocks that have grown  
between us  
have suddenly turned to stars, and have sunk into  
our bodies  
sending a heat welding our joy together  
like two roots joining the earth.  
There is nothing to keep us apart,  
not tonight;  
we will ride this tractor  
home.

### Homage to My Hips / Lucille Clifton

THESE HIPS ARE BIG HIPS.  
THEY NEED SPACE  
TO MOVE AROUND IN.  
THEY DON'T FIT INTO LITTLE  
PETTY PLACES. THESE HIPS  
ARE FREE HIPS.  
THEY DON'T LIKE TO BE HELD BACK.  
THESE HIPS HAVE NEVER BEEN A SLAVE,  
THEY GO WHERE THEY WANT TO GO  
THEY DO WHAT THEY WANT TO DO.  
THESE HIPS ARE MIGHTY HIPS.  
THESE HIPS ARE MAGIC HIPS.  
I HAVE KNOWN THEM  
TO PUT A SPELL ON A MAN  
AND SPIN HIM LIKE A TOP.

### Another Note for a Future Memory / Alvin Aubert

summer in new orleans  
dodging the heat  
but needing the warmth & light