

## **Africa by Maya Angelou**

Written by Mshale Staff  
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Beloved American author and poet, Maya Angelou, born April 4 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri, died Wednesday May 28, 2014 at the age of 86.

The poem below, titled Africa was written by her.

### **Africa**

By Maya Angelou

Thus she had lain  
sugercane sweet  
deserts her hair  
golden her feet  
mountains her breasts  
two Niles her tears.  
Thus she has lain  
Black through the years.

Over the white seas  
rime white and cold  
brigands ungentled  
icicle bold  
took her young daughters  
sold her strong sons  
churched her with Jesus  
bled her with guns.  
Thus she has lain.

Now she is rising  
remember her pain  
remember the losses  
her screams loud and vain  
remember her riches  
her history slain  
now she is striding  
although she has lain.

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