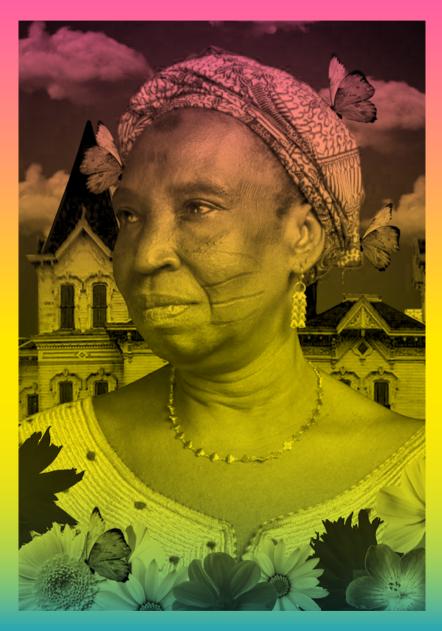# AMBIT 244

POEMS, STORIES, ART. All in Ambit 244, Summer 2021 De nullicim exerehent dolorro beario dolum recti volestist, vene nobisto dus, sum ipici ipsa commodit eation cor as re re volores dit volenimpor maionse quiaten dellign ihitin eos eaquati repere nit est et eium laute nis accab is voles sum, sitaspeleste perupta versped ulluptatem earuptur?

Jerrold Yam

Joshua

*"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David,
the son of Abraham: [...] Salmon the father of Boaz, whose
mother was Rahab [...]."*
Matthew 1

The names which multiplied like flowers- harlot,
innkeeper, whore- were the ones I harvested
at the blistering door of a life's
honest work, my tavern
muscled into the city wall like a limpet
conch, where men could put away their sandals
after riding and be nourished. Yes,
threshing a living into rights and wrongs
never replenished the spice cabinet, and who
had not, at least once, smoothened out
      the body's currency
in exchange for shelter? One night,
from across the Jordan, two men arrived to spy
on Jericho, their tunics bearing shadows
of daggers at the waist, foreheads
gleaming like knives. How could I turn them
over to the king's soldiers, when we've all heard
      how their God
sliced open the Red Sea so they could
traverse its brackish wound?
               I tucked them,
in exchange for the lives of my household
when this wall would later collapse
like a garment and the city
stripped to ruin, in the roof among golden
bales of drying flax, which was where I left
my old names and old allegiances,
those years I witnessed the signs but chose
      to believe
only in circumstance, like wildflowers
at the door, things no longer
put up with or left as they are.

Jerrold Yam is a Singaporean lawyer based in London, and the author of three
poetry collections with BooksActually and Ethos Books in Singapore. His poems
have appeared in Prairie Schooner, Washington Square Review, Wasafiri and
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