

MICHELLE LYNCH

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Angelica

when men had gods; and infidels  
were idolatrous  
the Sun gathered the Moon in Angelica-  
water. roots distilled in wine,

body not bound; a remedy  
for the hollow therein, to heal  
flesh as garden.

## ABOUT THE POEM

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“Angelica” was created from the *Complete Herbal* by Nicholas Culpeper (1653). About the poem and the process of composing it, Michelle Lynch writes:

This poem was constructed from the Angelica section of Culpeper’s *Complete Herbal*. My process included copying out that section and then reading slowly for words to keep and words to erase. Culpeper’s language within this section was already so tantalizing that all I felt I needed to do was listen to the musicality for direction, then form stanzas. As I went along, I wanted to keep focusing on how the botanical was used in ancient times, so let that instruct me in finding my next words within the text until a full poem revealed itself to me.

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