

Moravian Women's Association
Home & Overseas Paper - March 2020

Phenomenal Woman

By Maya Angelou

Pretty women wonder where my
secret lies.

I'm not cute or built to suit a
fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,

It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.

I say,

It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.

I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me.

They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.

When I try to show them
They say they still can't see.

I say,

It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.

I'm a woman

Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.

When you see me passing
It ought to make you proud.

I say,

It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
The palm of my hand,
The need of my care,

'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Our “wonder women” theme for this year reminded me of this well known poem. Its fitting that we should read it in March, which is the month of Women’s World Day of Prayer, and International Women’s Day. Maya Angelou overcame a terrible childhood to lead an amazing life as a poet, writer, and civil rights activist. Her best known book is an autobiography *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*. Here are some of her memorable quotes:

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

“What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain.”

“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.



Maya Angelou 1928 - 2014

Naomi Hancock - March 2020