

was able to help out a little—but he was confused, too. Something had failed to go according to plan. As in the days of Abraham, he needed counsel from his children. “I am who I am,” thought God, “but I must become who I will become.”

And God and Adam were expectant and afraid the day Eve and Lilith returned to the garden, bursting with possibilities, ready to rebuild it together.

29

Eden**Jacqueline Lapidus**

ever since I discovered
Lilith, things
have been different around here

the first time we met
by accident she
came back one night
for a seashell she'd forgotten to pack

Adam was asleep
and I, restless, strolling
in the orchard
climbed the apple tree
for exercise and heard her
singing in its branches

touch me, she said, see
how my flesh fits
the folds and hollows
of your body smell
the flower between my legs
feel my muscles
listen to the life
in my womb

oh, she was beautiful!
I thought I had never seen
anyone quite like her
before next morning, though
bathing in the waves
her image came dancing to me
like sunlight, reflecting
myself

now I go looking
for Lilith everywhere
inventing with her names
for swallow quartz anemone
learning to breathe like
dolphins, laughing as our bellies grow
round as the moon

Adam
notices but says nothing
this knowledge of our power
sticks in his throat

30

Lilith and Eve: Secret Sisters and Successive Wives

Naomi Goodman