

The Cup of Miriam

Contributed by [Susan Walker](#)

Source: Marge Piercy

*The cup of Elijah holds wine;
the cup of Miriam holds water.
Wine is more precious
until you have no water.*

*Water that flows in our veins
water that is the stuff of life
for we are made of breath
and water, vision*

*and fact. Elijah is
the extraordinary; Miriam
brings the daily wonders:
the joy of a fresh morning*

*like a newly prepared table,
a white linen cloth on which
nothing has yet spilled.
The descent into the heavy*

*waters of sleep healing us.
The scent of bread baking,
roasting chicken, fresh herbs,
the faces of friends across*

*the table: what sustains us
every morning, every evening,
the common daily miracles
like the taste of cool water.*