

# REUNION

*John Nimmo*

*Esau and Jacob*  
*Oil on canvas, c. 1907*  
*Michel Sauvenier*

Four hundred men in orange march in from right.  
Ten flocks of milk-white sheep meander left,  
among them crimson camels, intended gift  
to fast assuage old brotherly rage, despite  
the trust lost through deceit. These twins would fight  
for vengeance, or from fear, to splay their rift—  
though it was yet so wide no quake could shift  
it back in place. But here one forthright  
kiss to wet the neck of Jacob's bowed head,  
from Esau, with his arms spread wide in peace,  
connects, unnerves, and startles all. Their dread  
dissolves; it seeps into hoof-beaten grass  
beneath the laid-down swords and random tread  
of wives and servants, frenzied without cease.

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