

Arachne and Athena

from *Echo Echo: Reverso Poems about Greek Myths*

By Marilyn Singer

Competition?
I'm really not fond of
bragging,
but that hag is constantly
overpraised.
I don't need to be
a daughter of Zeus.
I am already
the goddess of silk.
There can never be another of my ilk,
now and forever.
Let her keep trying to win at spinning,
that creature with no fingers
so nimble and clever.
Behold how she's fallen from her high position!

Behold! How she's fallen from her high position—
so nimble and clever,
that creature with no fingers.
Let her keep trying to win at spinning,
now and forever.
There can never be another of my ilk—
the goddess of silk.
I am already
a daughter of Zeus.
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overpraised.
But that hag is constantly
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I'm really not fond of
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Arachne was a talented and proud weaver. Athena, goddess of wisdom (and weaving), challenged her to a contest. When Arachne won, Athena was so angry that she changed the girl into a spider.

