

**Marguerite Porete**

**(author of *The Mirror of Simple Souls*, died June 1, 1310)**

by [Sarah Rossiter](#) in the [June 2023](#) issue

It's June when she's burned at the stake,  
lavender blooming in French fields, lilacs  
beginning to fade, their honeyed scent  
mingling with smoke as onlookers weep  
to watch flames licking her naked flesh,  
but she doesn't flinch, she will not recant  
even though this is the price she pays for  
believing the Divine Spark, gifted from  
birth, resides within each of us, nor does  
she know that seven hundred years will  
pass before she comes to light as the woman  
who writes that her *Soul so burned in Love's  
fiery furnace, she feels no fire, for she is fire,  
the fire of Love.*