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Three Poems

By Barry Spacks

Dream-Masters

In this dream called life at times those loved
must leave us, moving into darkness,
among them celebrants specially blessed
who spent their strength in mothering others.

Death, we're told, is perfectly safe,
but these, who'd dreamed their days so well,
they teach us a comfort even more vast:
how to dream a diamond's dream.

On a Photograph by Barbara Parmet

The title is "Woman."
On a pedestal, slim arms, heart-stopping breasts,
a cat's head, staring.

She holds at her crotch
in casual fingers
an enormous black rose.

Trumpet Vine

Cut at the root by the men re-roofing
a remnant still greens the coping's edge,

still with its swirls ennobles the trellis,
yet to receive the news of decay

as underground the mother-stock
again starts the long climb toward the rooftop.

Faber & Faber *Finds* series. His most recent poetry collection (Cherry Grove, 2012) presents a selection from ten years of e-mail exchanges with his friend Lawrence E. Leone. It's called *A Bounty of 84s* (84 being a stanza limited exactly to 84 characters, echoing the traditional notion that the Buddha left us 84,000 different teachings because humans have so many different needs and all of us so differently the same). Over the years his poetry has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Paris Review* and hundreds of other journals.

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