

Not Saying

by **Lianne Mercer RN, MSN, CPT**

Grass keeps its green secrets despite dusk
trying to pry them loose, promising dew, a new
moon and forgiveness, despite dawn tempting
with the golden red surprise of sunrise.

Zinnias radiate ambition; you can see it
in the set of the chin of the flowers
aligning their cheeks with the sun.
Butterflies dance with gravity.

Bees never think of the ground
serve only honey and the queen
with their chunky striped bodies
their wings made of sky and belief.

Barnabas leans without words
into the arc of the first stone.
David's heart sees Goliath's vulnerability.
The healer touches the feverish brow

like rain, like a cardinal sinking into red.
Enticed by the balm of the terrible grace
of story, the sick one rises, stumbles
over her life, begins to talk.

Lianne Mercer RN, MSN, CPT, is a certified poetry therapist, writer, and nurse. A psychiatric nurse and nurse educator at the University of Michigan, Texas Women's University, San Jacinto Junior College, Ms. Mercer has retired and now works with nurses and other medical people. She has been published in numerous journals and anthologies, including the *American Journal of Nursing* (December 2002).

*Her short story, **For Sale**, was nominated for a PushCart Prize in 2001. She has work in **The Poetry of Nursing: Poems and Commentaries of Leading Nurse-Poets** published by Kent State University Press, 2006. In 2005, she published **Compassionate Witness: Before We Say Good-bye**, a story told in narrative and in poetry about her relationship with her aging mother – an emotional journey from anger to compassion that provides wisdom and practical suggestions for those who want to heal a relationship and accept the challenge of finding themselves.*