

LOST DREAM

By Joan McNerney

I am driving up a hill
without name on an
unnumbered highway.

This road transforms into
a snake winding around
coiled on hair pin turns.

At bottom of the incline
lies a dark village strangely
hushed with secrets.

How black it is. How difficult
to find that dream street
which I must discover.

Exactly what I will explore
is unsure. Where I will find it
is unknown. All is in question.

I continue to haunt gloomy
streets in this dream town
crossing dim intersections.

Everything has become a maze

where one line leads to another
dead ends become beginnings.

Deciding to abandon my search,
I return for my automobile...
nowhere to be found in shadows.

Finally I look up at the moon's
yellow eye...my lips forming
prayers to a disinterested god.

LIVE OAK BOUGHS

Boughs build archways as tips
of trees touch each other. What
was shaded green becomes
nocturnal shadow. A
crescent moon hangs from
heaven. Light tracing
foliage falls dropping
dusty deep upon ground.

Secrets lie inside the
edged shadow. Animals
hide under darkness
resounding through night
as leaves rustle.

All changing except
this pattern of what

is now formed.

TREES OF HEAVEN

Those are tough trees
growing in slums.

With no need of rich soil
or pruning, they rise
in abandoned lots.

These are trees that
survive rubbish, rodents,
noxious chemicals.

Not easily cut down,
they stand against
gaunt tenements.

Climbing skyward,
delicate palm leaves
flourish flowering pods.

These trees of heaven give
children glimpses of bright
emerald each morning.

The stars play peek-a-boo
between their branches
through long nights.

Who said a taste of
paradise is only for the rich?

BIO

Joan McNerney's poetry is found in many literary magazines such as Seven Circle Press, Dinner with the Muse, Poet Warriors, Blueline, and Halcyon Days. Four Bright Hills Press Anthologies, several Poppy Road Journals, and numerous Poets' Espresso Reviews have accepted her work. She has four Best of the Net nominations. Her latest title is The Muse in Miniature available on Amazon.com and Cyberwit.net

EPISTEME