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Cosmic Cat

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Pat McKeage *Cosmic Cat*

"I am the Cosmic Cat you know"
and I reply—
as I stand on the deck,
watching the early light
chasing the mist,
"No, you're not.
You're only a purring machine."

I am the Cosmic Cat you know"
I reply—
the sun disappearing
as I stick a red hibiscus flower,
in full bloom
when the sun is straight up,
on the grave—
"No, you're not.
You're only a purring machine
and now quite dead."

"I am the Cosmic Cat"
as I return the next evening
the red hibiscus flower
stretched out wide
low to the ground
see through velvet
shimmering with energy—
Is this cat getting the last word?
She is not
as I return to the deck
and try to think...

what explanation can there
be as my confused agnostic
and rational mind races on,
her flower after more than
thirty-six hours
should at least be
showing signs of death and
nobody even knew this cat was

dead it happened so suddenly
it was very unlikely the
flower was replaced. Or is it
her body sustaining that
flower but I buried her deep and the
body cold and besides decomposition
of that degree wouldn't be starting
so quickly so it must be the
air molecules in the newly dug dirt
or capillary water doing its job

whatever it is
she's not getting the last word
it's science to the rescue
as I return to the grave

Now I do need a drink

one more

one more

An hour before first light
flashlight in hand
I return...
exactly the same.

This is too much
I am going to bed.
At noon I have to check
from a distance
that flower
looking good
upon closer inspection
obviously dying
about time.