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**Human Spirit**

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Human Spirit

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Black Rose

Flourishing
In blue blackness
With a deadly grip
Capturing the spirit of all
Who have gazed upon you.
Drawing them into a world
Darkly laced with fear,
Knowing they shall find
What they have sought all their lives.

Black rose, thornless rose,
From where do you come?
Where do you go?

—Sally Schneider

Human Spirit

Oh Spirit within
Living flame
Burst of reality
Promise of eternity
Concealed in me.
Oh body, slave, servant
Pleasurable, painful
Perishable
A coat and Cast
For the Spirit
Combined in me.
Breathing
Long after
The last breath
Burning
After the last pain
Living forever
Spirit burning freely
In the Face of God,
In the face of Itself.

—Halina Halpa