

A Visit to the *Saguaro National Park

In Israel
they are known as Sabra.
Prickly on the outside
soft and yielding within.
Here in the Arizona desert
they are *Saguaro.
The natives say
they are the spirits of our ancestors
risen from the dead.
They stand like sentinels
arms reaching upwards and outwards
sometimes clasping one another
as a parent does a child.
All the people
who have ever been
are here.
Not ashes to ashes
Not dust to dust
but enriching the earth
as we enrich
the lives of others.
This is our life after death.

* suh.waa.row