

# Akai, Hardened Soil

Hardened soil makes sowing seed  
A fruitless breath against the weeds

The roots can't dig beneath dry dirt  
This budding flesh can't hide from birds

And just when you might think you've a chance  
to overcome or cheat circumstance

Just as you lift your leaves to the skies  
in triumph of a hard fought short life

It turns out we've been sown in a glade  
that's rented for a massive parade

And as you hear that ominous cheer,  
your life's accomplishments drown in fear

Yet moistened ground and bright sunlight  
make luscious leaves and flowers bright

The colors glow; the pedals teem  
with pollen for the welcome bees

And as you thank the world for your fate  
and think you're ready for come what may

Your beauty captures stares from the eyes  
of hungry men who value a prize

They pluck you from your garden-like home  
to put in a glass vase all alone

And as the petals fall from your stem  
you can't help but think what could have been

Every time there strength to stand back up  
a healthy blow brings back the need to fight