



Mexican Black Bear

I came across the border looking for more space
Crossing the river and entering Texas's embrace
There's lots of my type in Big Bend Park
But I came to the Hill Country on a lark.

I like to move slowly, meandering along,
Eating berries and acorns, I feel I belong,
I favor rugged terrain like that near Rocksprings
Where I'm back in Texas and blazing a trail.

Here in Texas, I don't have to hibernate,
When it's cold, I make a den to concentrate
On the dreams that come in a warm cave,
Soon waking up to sniff out what nature gave.

I'm pretty capable of caring for myself,
I can climb a tree or walk a rock shelf,
Water's always a factor in where I stop,
And I wander each day until I drop.

Now what would you do if I ran into you,
Out camping with your family in the morning dew?
I bet you'd freak out and shoo me away,
Or take stronger action to my dismay.

I'm really easy going with a good disposition,
But don't subject me to an inquisition,
I don't respond well to pushing and prodding,
And I'm not an insect to be swatted.

So, I need to have privacy in my habitat,

Just like my brother the endangered cat,
My survival depends on avoiding human eyes,
For I could be seen as an unwelcome surprise.

I depend on the temples of Earth Church each day,
To keep me alive and in Texas to stay,
I can't say enough about protected land.
Whether public or private, I need a hand.

So welcome to Earth Church,
Pull yourself up a pew,
Where a lovely black bear
Wants to pray with you too.