



Black Lace Cactus

The Black Lace is an endangered cactus,
There's not very many – it's rare amongst us,
It's named for the lace formed by the spines
That protect the plant with pointed tines.

Some landowners fear these threatened plants,
But there may be money in black lace transplants
That comes from projects that destroy its habitat,
And just in time – meet the species diplomat.

Now a species diplomat is an interesting cat,
Wearing jeans and snake boots and an old hat,
Knowing how to move within the thorny brush,
Working fast – efficient - for there's always a rush.

These diplomats check for species in the way,
Of a new gas pipeline right-of-way,
And then they talk to the various bosses -
Trying to limit Earth Church losses.

If black lace cactus is determined to be
Among those at risk of species jeopardy,
Then negotiations will begin to find a solution
That will result in a permit granting absolution.

If the diplomats agree the cactus should be moved,
It will be expensive, but experience has proved,
That money spent to relocate the cactus,
Is state of the art and good corporate practice.

And the diplomat for the species is a necessity
Associated with issues hard and pesky,
They do great work attempting to keep order,
In the Church of the Earth's species larder.

The black lace cactus will find a new home,
And a way to protect its endangered genome,
So, let's tip our hat to the diplomat
For accomplishing the impossible like an acrobat.

So welcome to Earth Church,
Pull yourself up a pew,
Say a prayer that diplomacy
Saves the Earth for you.