

1982

## Cactus Man

Bruce Pedretti  
*Denison University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Pedretti, Bruce (1982) "Cactus Man," *Exile*: Vol. 29 : No. 1 , Article 26.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/exile/vol29/iss1/26>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the English at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Exile by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.

## ***Cactus Man***

Cactus man, don't  
prick me again.  
I am all alone in your  
desert of death.  
I am the guest of the granules and  
the candy-striped carrion.

I tip my hat to you cactus man,  
you have used your resourcefulness,  
and you live.  
I lie here, a dry heap,  
kissing your feet  
for hope of your wisdom.

This shifting hell guarded  
by the scorching sun dried my  
last ounce of being.

This frame of baked bones died  
begging.  
For your wisdom.

Bruce Pedretti