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The Hidden World (Tu Fu)

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THE HIDDEN WORLD (Tu Fu)

The hollyhocks have
risen above my door.

They're amazing to behold.
The aroma of phlox
is honey to my nose.
And the irises grow
where nothing else
seems to grow.

It's almost a miracle.
Paralyzed,
from her neck down,
the old woman
across the road
stares at those flowers
all day.

I pray it gives her pleasure
and eases her cares.
But it's a pleasure I hope
I will never share.

GEORGE FREEK