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New Writing Engaging with the Sacred

[**Phenomenal – a poem by Stephanie V Sears**](https://amethystmagazine.org/2021/04/17/phenomenal-a-poem-by-stephanie-v-sears/)

**Phenomenal**

Across Italy’s Romanesque lines

between Tyrrhenian and Adriatic seas

saints seed themselves in ploughed fields,

silt with mysticism

the blood of builder and artisan,

dash rebellion over the crepuscular

hours of the two flanking shores.

They thrive on terracotta hills

as wild as poppies,

as persistent as weeds,

their ignited souls branding

the clement sky

with a tirade of wings.

They come of age

impulsive and beautiful.

A see-through grove of trees

gloves a crest

with a lace mitten of sun and shade.

There the top branches

entwine with tender silence,

far, far distance nears

and bequeaths humility.

Magnified fragments of the world

touch the heart of penitence.

Animals become disciples.

Light slips into satin,

shows to advantage

barrel-vaulted woods

sheep-cropped slopes

ivy niches of romance

where rock admonishes

in fresh trickles:

“Poverty kill the flesh!”

They grow old from unsolved mysteries

cradling sacrifice like progeny

to whom they continue

to serve miracles like *gelati*.

**Stephanie V Sears** is a French and American ethnologist (Doctorate EHESS, Paris 1993), free-lance journalist, essayist and poet whose poetry recently appeared in *The Deronda Review, The Comstock Review, The Mystic Blue Review, The Big Windows Review, Indefinite Space, The Plum Tree Tavern, Literary Yard, Clementine Unbound, Anti Heroin Chic, DASH, The Dawn Treader. The Strange Travels of Svinhilde Wilson* published by Adelaide Book 2020.