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Mid-Way Market

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Poem

by Karen Freiberg

Mecca

is a perennial journey

for time-furrowed faces

thrust through unplowed prairie grasses

at the speed of men and animals

walking

Mid-Way Market

by

Vicki Hudspith

An old man fat
with a cane hobbles
out to fill your car

with gas can't seem to
read the numbers on
the pump so you get

out and help. White cat
sidles up that likes
her ears scratched and so

you do while watching
the numbers jump now
saying eighty-eight

eighty-nine, ninety
one dollar, whoa. You
give him a five, he

peels off four as if
he knows them each, he
says, "You didn't want

to spend it all in
one place eh?" He knows.
And tries to cradle

the pump handle but
misses tries again.
A hit. You get back

in the car from the
rider's side since it
got hit Tuesday. And

the story just goes
on writing itself
for no good reason.