

MIGHTIER THAN THE VOICE OF THE DEITY?

Mary Kennan Herbert

"My tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer." – Psalm 45:1 (KJV)

Oral literature will continue its mission,
telling tales of breasts heaving under golden clasps
to be opened by the hero at last, his hands
with golden hairs vibrating to admonitions
spoken by a resonant voice on high, rich sounds
trumping written scrawls on parchment, maps
vibrating with destiny, show-and-tell from foreign lands
more memorable than chalk on slate or cuneiform.
Still, as your scribe on duty tonight, I am keen
to record what I have heard from on high, the rasps
of angel voices, vibrating, copied by man's
techonology, if need be, written here, in stone.

Mary Kennan Herbert teaches writing and literature courses at Long Island University, and at other colleges in the New York City area. Ms. Herbert holds a degree in art and education from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a master's degree in creative writing from The City College of New York. Her first collection of poems was published in 1998 by Ginninderra Press in Australia, which also published her second and third books of poetry, in 1999 and 2000. Her fourth collection was published in 2000 by Meadow Geese Press in Massachusetts, USA, and her fifth book has just been published by Ginninderra Press. She also received first prize in the 1999 poetry competition sponsored by the Midwest Conference on Christianity and Literature.