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## ELEPHANTA ISLAND, after Octavio Paz

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A juvenile monkey gets licks for so  
Scampers to the tip of the peepal tree limb  
Overhanging Elephanta's cliff  
He clutches to life  
Until rescued by his mother  
After she clouts up the bully  
Who pushed him towards that vertigo trip  
Where he met Octavio Paz  
In a bubble on the edge of time  
Trailing this nearly vertical island  
Where Parvati and Shiva dwell  
In sandstone caves  
Where Gods and Goddesses  
Like parachutes keep afloat all the poets  
Who visit these temples  
On vertigo trips  
Where night explodes into pink day  
And where yellow Frangipani flowers  
Cascade into the sea  
Like souls and souls of ancestral folks  
Floating light on the Kala Pani