

# Brother Mars

by [Gerson Silverstein](#) in the [November 2, 2004](#) issue

Hubble pockets light years, eons, sees eye  
to eye with dust, a small drop of water.

NASA's robot stalks tiptoe, a cat's paw  
on the prowl to report if there is life,  
beeps back a monument of stone and ice,  
an unresponsive mountain in orbit.

Delicate antennae translate the laws  
of physics into a mourner's sigh.

But the frozen droplet, like the sea  
to a drowning man, whirls its rueful hoard  
of thanks deferred, of love unvoiced, the pleas  
of miracles before the eyes, the mystery  
of the heart, the mind's Post-it notes: Praise the Lord,  
Carpe Diem and Memento Mori.