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## Prayer Wheels Spin

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## Prayer Wheels Spin

Prayer wheels spin,  
spin, spin, spin  
in the thin Himalayan air;  
rosary beads rattle  
in a dim cathedral nave,  
in lined, weathered hands,  
clack, clack, clack;  
the rug to Mecca unrolls,  
sacred road paved again  
and again and again.

The devout shuffle  
in a fog of vaporous incense,  
round, round, round  
mute, painted stone,  
inert prophets and saints;  
holy men draped  
in splendid, embroidered vestments,  
douse bowed heads,  
blessed, blessed, blessed,  
and light candle after candle,  
flame after flame after vapid flame.

The pious wearily, relentlessly  
chant, chant, obsessively chant  
from scroll and scripture pages,  
turning, turning, turning, endlessly  
chant over the *maya*—  
the many things, measure,  
tabulated, computed, bisected, analyzed,  
canonized into exquisite ritual.

And still and still and still  
And still there is *dukkha*—  
and still birth and death  
sup in our kitchen and  
sit on our porch, rocking,  
rocking, rocking, rocking,  
back and forth,  
back and forth.

-David Sapp  
Huron, Ohio