

## The Scent of Weeds

by raz *Tuesday, May 2 2017, 10:11am*

international / poetry / post

roses are garish  
unfurled in their femaleness  
with overpowering scent  
but not all, some lack fragrance altogether

roses are demanding  
they require tending and care  
but by the roadside and in cemeteries  
weeds proliferate --  
straight and sturdy they issue a subtle scent  
rough as their jagged leaves and coarse  
like sandpaper

one wonders at times why weeds are rejected in favour  
of cultivated flowers that wither and die when exposed to  
the elements --  
aesthetics seem inverted, but who would give  
a weed on Valentine's day? me probably,  
as a sign of endurance and simple taste,

weeds survive in the harshest of conditions  
without demands  
they have learned that independence leads to survival  
and so displace the weak and tended

weeds supply useful materials, chemical and fibrous,  
they have learned to bribe predators  
with compounds that delight and intoxicate  
while roses quickly fade and die ignominious  
useless deaths

but then taste and aesthetics are learned,  
cultivated by culture  
though some people have different tastes