***Woman with Flower* by Naomi Long Madgett**

I wouldn't coax the plant if I were you.

Such watchful nurturing may do it harm.

Let the soil rest from so much digging

And wait until it's dry before you water it.

The leaf's inclined to find its own direction;

Give it a chance to seek the sunlight

  for itself.

Much growth is stunted by too careful

    prodding,

Too eager tenderness.

The things we love we have to learn to

  leave alone.

