roots: an experiment in rewilding
a haiku series

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The purpose of this haiku series was to explore the intricate nature of human interaction with the environment with the goal of adding to the conversation that seeks to rewild and reconnect people with nature.

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seasons

winter

just as marrow lives
the seed bank bides in silence
crafting revival

spring

soil ushers life
feeding curious root tips
free to explore now

summer

regenerating
drunk on a boundless supply
fruits swell from the vine

fall

harvest yields plenty
swaddled babes in a wicker
cornucopia
elements, of mutualism

earth (birth)

grandfather tree falls
smited by a lightning strike
offspring seek shelter

born from the Earth’s crust
new, warty oaks umbrella
over our tree swing

air (growth)

weatherman unsure
tumultuous storms dance near
will they miss our home?

barren clouds drift past
sparing tonight’s scant linens
drying on the line

fire (awakening)

crackling fire ablaze
dormant seed-bank awakens
seedlings push through ash

trees grow steadily
sturdy, aged trunks support our
childhood lean-tos

water (healing)

twin lunar spirits
streaming moonlight dances on
the pond’s glass surface

reflection reveals
the twins, Moon and Water, dance
within my own eyes
stages of forest succession

bare rock

barren earth still warm
from recent flaming cleanse
population: none

lichens

seafoam ruffles cling
to cliffside rock, breaking down
mineral to soil

grassland, herbfield, and fernland

rodents rummaging
under groundcover’s disguise
for wildflower seeds

shrubland

escaping the jaws
of a ravenous she-wolf
briar saves rabbit

young forest

birdsong flows, yet the
saplings dance to the music
of westerly winds

mature forest

life comes in waves now
forage and their foragers
population grows
seven layer forest

_canopy_

ancient maple trees
tower over residents
of lower domains

_understory_

eager offspring fight
to escape the reach of deer
in a race skywards

_shrub_

blackberry bushes
ravaged by eager bear cubs
tongues stained violet

_herbaceous_

wind-tousled and jovial
sweet, perfumed haven
aromatic herbs

_ground cover_

perennial scruff
blankets the cool forest floor
an insect roadway

_roots_

tethered to the earth
with finer-than-hair anchors
strength in unity

_vine_

discontent below,
curious tendrils reach towards
hand-holds for ascent
**flora & fauna**

*birds (penguin)*

sail `crost frozen scape
perform the silent ballet
`neath icy, azure plane

*mammals (bear)*

tender sockeye flesh
spotted in the wild torrent
pierced by grizzly fang

*flower (dandelion)*

happy for *no one*
except me, myself, and *I*

*am radiant sun*

*crustaceans (crab)*

haughty, jagged claws
defend a delicate form
hiding `neath the shell

*reptiles (chameleon)*

telescopic eyes
iridophore mimicry
scanning for danger

*nonvascular plant (moss)*

the finishing touch
on a frogs knitting project
a forest blanket

*fish (koi)*

traditional dance
a study in ebb and flow
orange balances white
other living things

bacterium

in a boundless world
of microbes, humans, and gods
whose judgment is law?

orchid mantis

perched in silent wait
‘til origami legs seize
an unwitting moth

mushroom

rising from the earth
mightier than a tower
p u f f - gone by day’s end

algae

no roots, leaves, or stems
an unorthodox misfit
yet i am alive

jellyfish

unpredictable
no apparent cause for bloom
sudden abundance

yeast

food, warmth, and water
are these not basic human needs?
sympathy for bread

men

my sweet summer love,
akin to all other beasts,
quell your temperament
pastures

hills tumble over
and over the silent scape
lush scent of sweetgrass

pink clover beckons
honey bees to nestle in
it’s trumpeted cones

unhurried stalks wave
ears turned up, filling with grain
sweet corn for supper

goldenrod fairy-dust
kisses orange poppy faces
the rose turns, blushing

fresh hay bales bundled
and autumnal-sun baked
warm winter bedding

tawny field mouse
scurries up a wheat-shaft mast
squeakless surveillance
arboreal gossip

maple, did you hear?
cherry and willow’s affair
fostered wicked fruit

an unorthodox
marriage of beauty and beast
bastard child born

their offspring a fuse
of her delicate blossoms
and his untamed ilk

she waits lakeside
for a reason to bloom, alas
no one her equal

until this morning
a young dame wrapped in fine silk
was drawn to the rogue

enchanted by her
uniquely feminine limbs
lithe caressed lithe

all day they remained
swathed in ineffable love
drinking in sunlight

a romance so pure
yet so intoxicating
never seen before

dark lake reflection
reveals hidden desire
‘neath sapphic starlight
frog and toad

oh toad, how i wish
you could see and love yourself
just as i do, dear

frog, you are too kind
i appreciate your care
and true thoughtfulness

oh toad, how i wish
you would cherish your own heart
just as i do, dear

frog, your words too nice,
too beautiful, to describe
an old toad like me

oh toad, you deserve
to be written about with
rose-hued devotion

dear frog, please hush now
i am too far slow to match
your charm and wit

oh but toad, you, toad
are the utmost charming soul
i’ve been graced to know

frog- no, toad!

toad, i adore you
you are the salt of the earth
the wind in my sails

you are my sunshine
my love for you unworldly
you are my starlight

sweeter than sugar
and yet i’ll never tire
of your honeyed kiss

stronger than the tides
at the height of the full moon
my attraction grows

toad, i beg of you,
seize my eyes so that you might
know you as i do

frog, if i promise
to try and see myself as
you have just described

will you allow me
take you on a walk out by
our favorite pond

and watch the white clouds
and crawling critters go by
and ignore the clocks

forgetting about
all else, just enjoying each
other’s company?

yes, dear toad, i would
i would like nothing better
than to do just that

pack a light picnic
and i’ll grab our coats and hats.
let us retire, dear
**pollinators**

naïve bee to bud
she craves your hidden nectar
glacé enraputure

deviant she-bat
bleeds overripe mangoes dry
lone gluttonous feast

kaleidoscopic
madagascar sunset moths
french kiss orchid lips