

# 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  
*puff* - 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 enrapture

deviant she-bat  
bleeds overripe mangoes dry  
lone gluttonous feast

kaleidoscopic  
madagascan sunset moths  
french kiss orchid lips