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Wood

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Wood

by John Van Rys

apples shake and boughs break
beneath a brilliant sun.
willows weep low and sick elms grow
tired before life's begun.

birches rot within the heart
their bark a leprous skin.
evergreens pale held fast in jail—
a swamp's love soaks within.

vines embrace oak's rigid limbs
while roots cling fast below.
the redwood's girth returns to earth—
its teeming life in tow.

the time to plant and to uproot
emerge from the clacking loom.
my limbs wind tight around your trunk
and warm your hollow womb.