

Like the Trees in Alexandria

The soil we stand on is packed
with the history of growth, the biology
of perseverance—as fertile and deep
as our affinities to each other.
This is where we start.

It took us thousands of years
to understand the community of trees
in a forest, to listen to the way roots intertwine,
communicate in safety underground.
This is our language, too—

of carbon and nitrogen and phosphorus
as we construct infinite, unseen pathways
to share nutrients and water, stories
and poetry and songs.
These are our common roots.

We are the trees of the forest, leafy
and floral, coniferous, with flashy crowns
or simple beauty. So many shades
of green and brown. Hues of loveliness.
This diversity is our touchstone.

Cypress, juniper, and palm, jasmine
and jacaranda, many have traveled the world
as flying seeds to land and re-gather
and celebrate our homecoming.
This is who we are.

Our root systems teach us to behave as a single
organism, to uplift all branches, young and old,
she and he and they, watering, and nourishing
each other, safeguarding saplings against injustice.
This is our present and our legacy.

We are the trees in Alexandria's Forest.

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