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Bonsai

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Bonsai

by *Barbara Armbruster*

Four year old
trained in Kengai
pruned dwarfed
bound shaped
for my pleasure;
with care
will live
for many generations;
I steel myself
to snip
the tender growth;
I tell myself
that this is ancient art,
and not the surgery
of breasts
or binding feet;
still I hear her
sighing
in the night
for her cool
mountain
home.