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## Rooted

Mardelle Fortier  
*College of DuPage*

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# Rooted

Mardelle Fortier

On an eroded bank, roots are exposed-  
 some black, some bleached,  
 often dried and chipped off at the ends,  
 knobby, twisting, snarling,  
 reaching into a pond, bearded with loose  
 moss like ancient greenish hair,  
 some gaunt, others bloated with food.

All of the roots reaching, trying, grasping  
 in black dirt and gummy clay.  
 They are never satisfied, never secure.  
 They clamber after more and more safety,  
 which crumbles and they wind and wail  
 wanting not to ascend  
 hoping to descend.

Humans aspire toward stars;  
 roots want to bury themselves.  
 They love the ground, terra firma.  
 Their wish: not to fly, not to  
 conquer outer space. They crouch, huddle,  
 grovel for the status quo, stay in one place  
 if possible for years, decades.  
 And they burrow, hang on;  
 victory to them would mean: Never to move.