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Maple in Autumn

Jan Lynn
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MAPLE IN AUTUMN

Jan Lynn

Her gnarled joints
 Creak
 As yesterday's pleasant breeze
 Blows cold and cranky.
 Her withered fingers,
 Severed from life's source,
 Wander aimlessly
 To her broad lap,
 Where wind's senile stirring
 Gathers them with sudden rushing purpose,

Spinning,
 Spiralling,
 Swirling,
 Sifting,
 Whirling,
 Lifting,
 Then,
 Forgetting
 its
 plan,
 s t o h
 c t e h h p c a
 a r t e n e s o
 s m i l s s
 e

Upon her dress of textured green.
 Her vision blurs as fog settles in,
 And sounds are muffled by pounding rain.
 She restlessly shifts her frail limbs,
 Stripped of dignity,
 Distressed by time,
 Then,
 Quietly awaits
 Her still, white shroud.