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## Forest Moon

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**Forest Morn**

**Judy Knott**

Stepping outside on concrete stoop, I breathe in fresh, morning air.  
Clutching strong brew of coffee, mug snuggled in both hands.  
Taking the first sip of smooth, caramel color,  
letting it simmer and settle before I swallow.

Appearing alongside, my resolute companion and escort.  
A shepherd of dense black fur, his coat soaks in early day sun.  
Performing his ritual bow, stretches from nose tip to tail end.  
Discerning my actions, waiting to embark on the day's first walk.

Harmonious, we step towards the expecting forest.  
Setting foot and paw on sandy dirt,  
our trail holds company with pine and oak.

My confidant and coffee, lofty trees, the morning breeze  
a heavenly blend, "Forest Morn" I dub thee.

(top right) *Sterling Pond Waterfall*. Jack Kreger.