The Bridge

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A bridge is not complete until the two sides meet
Until they agree that neither side will collapse
Until it is agreed that they will work together
And that each side is just a broken bridge without the other.
Their supports support each other.
They will not give into the sweeping water below.
Only erosion or the end of the earth will prevent this bridge from
keeping its promise and upholding its worth.
At first it seemed an easy task
And both sides were sure it would last
Further on there were difficulties, small disputes but they took
their toll.
The two sides of the bridge both sagged a little
The first noticeable damage was 120 years after construction.
Everyone’s happy that the bridge serves its function.
But under the bridge were signs of stress and strain.
It was difficult work, one with uncertain gain.
If bridges could this one would have perspired.
It was still manageable but both sides were tired.
It was the 180 year anniversary when the earthquake shook and
took advantage of the weakening bridge and both sides fell. And
the bridge was broken.
Many tried to blame it on construction
But it was well constructed just poorly maintained
Resulting in damage that would take years to be erased
Reconstruction would be difficult but it had to be done
The people needed a bridge after the earthquake had won.
So they rebuilt the bridge from the remains of the old
And reinforced it to prevent the wear and tear of the cold
And if there is another earthquake
The people prepared for that so the bridge won’t even shake.