

MARY ANN FENIMORE

Women Learning: Thunder in the bones

Insights of our lives
lurk in dusty obscuring spider webs
and daily events stack like teetering hiccups
on the ledges of our gathering learnings.
Lightening splinters through decrepit
patterns
of sculpting meanings to each other
and multitudes of smug perceptions
rumble for new positions,
like thunder in the bones of stampeding
elephants.
Minds and visions free themselves for flight
and
prepare for surprising landings,
while other longings gather strength
for cooling down the learning chaos,
for re-orientation
to the places we find ourselves settling in
like slow-motion landings on grandmother's
feather bed.
And all the while
the learning seeps through every crevasse
of every creature, human and non
slurping up and shortening down the spaces
of not quite knowing just what's going on!
And the arm bones raise and shake the
finger clapping skyward
and women's learning thunders on.

The Ageling

A young woman dragged a pot with the
Himalyan Birch sapling
out from amongst its nursery buddies.
And envy punched me in the stomach
as I sat upon a small, portable seat attached
to my cane,
arthritic back pain demanding that I sit.
The trail of the dragged sapling pot drew a
line
between the young, blonde, strong back
and my ageling body that would no longer
allow me
the garden pleasures
of heavy stones and heaped shovels.
I hobbled to the shielding of the Mountain
Ashes
and my tears joining the irrigation trickles,
joined the tears of ancient agelings,
joined the tears of those who could no
longer dig and drag
the soils of their ancestors and their selves.
We bought the Himalayan sapling
and planted it in the Earth of our home
where it broke free of its pot bindings
and spread itself
into new spaces.

Mary Anne Fenimore's poetry has been published in Literary Lion, Pegasus, Learning Experiences of Centenarians, and Just in CASE. She is currently teaching in the Faculty of Education at the University of Victoria.

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