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He Stands Tree Tall

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He Stands Tree Tall

He stands tree tall
and weathered woodlike
silent-listening

for summer starnights
pushing through
the near gold wheat,
swaying at the base
of a stumblin' oak.

The hills are his
slow and earth brown,
grown supple as a traveler's tale.

He sprang easy from a seed,
that fair-haired boy;
bore his shoulders
lithe and light against the wind,
giant-striding
in a sapling's measure strong.
Leafly and twigly
he grew there free
near a swift and swollen
member of the sea.

The days are his--
falling lonely,
they call the blue between himself.

Coupling with emerald deep shadows,
he leaves that place
growing between his toes,
tree tall and silent sighing
freely beneath the boughs.

/Michael VanderMarkt/