

Germination

By Kevin Pataroque

A single seed-
hidden inside tiny palms
strewn across the dust,
And trodden with the world's weight.
Nurtured deep inside the earth.

There; the wind's calling
ghostly arias transparent across a spring sky
coaxing life from the barren soil.
Filling empty space with greenery.
Condensing the clouds of smog
that were spewed from urban centers of greed.
Adding a splash of green watercolor
to a canvass of dulled grey and black hues.

Summer rain.
Accelerating towards the unaware.
glass beads splain across windows
running down to the earth.
Nestling inside crevasses of rock
nourishing roots with droplets.
Dewey leaves emerge alongside
the littered glass across the road.

Leaves taken from saplings
dance across autumn clouds.
Stepping along the breeze's tempo,
waltzing into the rising sun
whose rays bleed the leaves a crimson red
eventually oxidizing into orange.

Days precipitate into weeks, condensing into years.
Looming smog disappears
replaced with unknown realms of blue.
The setting sun marks the end of toil
and dirt-marked bodies drag away into smothering darkness.
With the coaxing of the rains, sun, and soil,
green tips begin to poke at a blanket of earth.

From the silent soils of Lake Oswego,
forests rise and burn to ash
frozen in the foundation of fire.
Seed shells glistening with the sweat of flesh
unifying the efforts of our population
Into natural skyscrapers that consume carbon
instead of gasoline-

Emit oxygen into atmospheres of blue.
Our trees ease burdens of carbon pollution and air particulates
instead storing them deep within trunks of wood.
adding color to a monochromic lifestyle

Centuries engraved into the old tree's flesh
as decades emerge from a single seed
in rings of time across a wooden frame.

34 years pass- 2050 arrives too soon.
A clearing in the woods,
sparse, save a single soul.
Altered by time, but stagnant in his memory.
Where he stood long ago.
And his fingers reach beneath the boughs.
of the tree he planted before
to catch
a single seed.

Kevin Pataroque is a junior at Lake Oswego High School. He has lived in Lake Oswego with his family for 6 years. In his spare time, he enjoys singing with his school choir, playing piano, or tutoring classmates in mathematics.