

ODE TO TREES

A Rap by Jonathan Slack

TREES I LOVE TREES TREES

Now doing a rap is like giving a speech.
So first let's celebrate our great local Beech.
There's Hazel, Maple and Hawthorn
Sycamore, Linden and Blackthorn.

Magnificent Chestnuts: horse and sweet
Our mighty Oaks, just can't be beat.
Monkey puzzle, Tulip and Acacia,
Willow, Poplar and Magnolia

Then there's Apple, Pear, Date and Plum,
Lemon, Cherry and Orange – yum yum.
Coconut, Fig, how many we've got
Olives, Peaches and the Apricot.

Now trees give more than fruits to us,
There's scents and shade, seeds and nuts.
Almond, Pecan, walnut and cashew,
I'm nuts about trees, are you too?

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Let's go back in time to old mythology
The Norse had Yggdrasil, the One World Tree.
Sitting under Banyan trees and sacred figs
Wassailing and Morris dancers doing little jigs

Trees have been so important to me.
They led directly to my wife to be.
Me at Bucks College doing timber technology,
She studying to be a secretary.

Our first kiss was under the mistletoe,
Beneath a tall tree in Marlow.
Later under mistletoe, me on one knee,
I asked, she said 'yes' to marrying me.

Now trees are wonderful all year round,
But there's so much more going on underground.
The wood-wide-web recently uncovered,
A massive root/fungi system just discovered.

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Also, what's great about trees and why they're so good,
Is that they give us their dead wood.

We saw and cut and steam and bend,
We slice and splice, veneer and mend.

Doors, furniture and window sashes
Furniture, beds, slats and hatches.
Shelves, benches and picture frames,
Wooden toys and great children's games.

Floors, kitchens and roof rafters
Don't forget coffins for the hereafters.
Without wood we couldn't go punting,
No dinghies, skiffs or yachting with bunting.

Where would we be without paper from trees?
No poems, nor lyrics, no symphonies.
No books, no scores, no plays, nor scripts.
And how would we wrap our fish and chips?

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Now I suggest trees gave us music.
We took the wood and boy did we use it.
Guitars, violins and the chello,
Flute, clarinet and the oboe.

Piano, Banjo and the ukulele,
They all frame our lives on a basis daily.
Harp, Bassoon and the marimba,
Tambourine, drums and balalaika

So, without trees we just cannot survive,
They give us oxygen to keep us alive.
They are a highly effective natural carbon sink,
The climate crisis, here, now, we're on the brink.

So, here to you all, is my final plea,
Each and every one of you please go and plant a tree.
ReLeaf Marlow will give you one for free,
So, enjoy your great new family tree.

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