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Web of Dew

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Web of Dew
By HANIEL LONG

Individual sufficiency
is the boast of a single leaf
lost in the green millions.
Yet into each leaf of the green millions
strikes sun.

If we could turn red roofs like pages
should we read the story of sufficingness,
or does the nerve telephone to the nerve
while hot tears fall?
And do the tears fall less readily
in the proud house of the mind
than in the humble heart?
—you and I being a mystic plant and petal
and books but Aristotle, a mystic plant and petal.
What does the violet say in the thigh?
And what says the rose,
what says the Walker in the Blood,
the Ancestral?

And was the Renaissance a predictable blossom
to the Dark Ages?
Yet undoubtedly in the Dark Ages
the Renaissance was reaching out of the future
to bring itself about:
and something even now reaches out of the future
to make a blossom of you and us all.

And maybe we are part of it—
maybe this in me which I cannot name,
this reaching towards you,
is not to be dismissed lightly,
needs your attention and tending
as well as mine.