

Tree

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*The tree of life groweth with slow and
steady increase through unmeasured time*

Basilides of Alexandria

Tree planted
 in my core
spreading growing
 tree of songs
many branched
 flame tree
rooted in death
 blood bathed
breath blown
 bone fibred
body tree
 elemental
tree in a seed
 full throated
thousand tongued
 thick skinned
creaking tree
 enduring thunder
wind eroded
 snow bound
survivor tree
 skeletal
under storm clouds
 budding slow
through despair
 thrusting hopes
of high skies
 cirrus strewn
milky ways
 and birds returning
wakening
 sleep laden tree
circled in memories
 close grained
springwood
 and summerwood
tree of dreams
 and visitations
leaved with hair

of fallen heroes
snake wreathed
giant guarded
threaded with voices
and children's laughter
ancestor tree
earth drinking
sky swallowing
bowelled living
grave tree
light eating
pillar of wisdom
of smoke of cloud
desert beacon
whorled tornado
fire fountain
golden chain
leading the way
through night
with agate jet
and haematite
from evening
gathering emerald
carnelian
and diamond dews
and in the studded
bowl of dawn
with pearl and opal
dissolving them
spreadeagled
against the morning
a scented trellis
spanning noon
blue crowned
tree of earth
water fire
of air of airs
light ship
dusky barge
sailing on
wind seasoned
around year ends
and back again
clay moored
soil harboured tree
prow lapped
by heaven's tides

sun cradle
 moon basket
cloud blanketed
 cask of stars
rocking meteors
 shaking planets
ploughing galaxies
 on long oars
world hammering
 sky raking
word breaking
 rocksplitting tree
bonecracking
 wrist of boughs
tower of strength
 pivot fulcrum
axial roof tree
 probing pharos
ever turning
 clawed through crust
of cliff and crag
 pointed dactyl
spark igniting
 flame hurling
quill clutched
 in a stone fist
illuminating
 day's page
in green and gold leaf
 manuscript
chiselling plaques
 in night's crypt
with serifs inked
 in baryons
kindling speech
 of origins
to sing darkness's
 molten core
of ice
 moss and coal
fossil fern
 and dinosaur
time tree
 revolving burning
prising open
 history's lips
drilling its jaws

to spit pips
needle twigs
and wiry shoots
earthed in its seams
and blood routes
ore flowers
on brittle stems
magnetic amber
diadems
electric tree
lightning conductor
energy funnel
through stratospheres
chimney built
in the pot of death
fuelling years
with quiet breath
tree of creation
tree of destruction
temple planted
in an upturned skull
worming woody
fibres through
eye socket
and mandible
world tree
scroll keeping
cave covered
by sky mountain
joy tent pitched
in wilderness
dome whispering
spire trembling
gargoyle gnarled
buttress of hills
glory cone
mist piercing
latticed steeple
nesting angels
fan vaulted
echoing tree
runged ladder
for the soul's fingers
valved throat
winged glottis
ringing singing
ribcage tree

harmonising
forest airs
and air of plains
in symphony
with the unceasing
ocean fend
orchestral baton
dowser's rod
dipping bending
greenwood sapling
bowed by longing
flex of hope
tightrope stretched
from loam to God
tuned wand
alembic
caduceus twined
branching vessel
thermometer measuring
ages' heat
mercurial sap
rising falling
hollow tree
fluted with stomata
wooden well
mine tunnelled
bell cord
and lungs of Hades
gale harness
fanning the damned
and the twice dead
and the never born
with harp tinkling
in glen and glade
and lament of orchards
for Hesperides
womb tree
moist lipped
rain collecting
underground tree
resin caulked
wine vat
tree of desire
taboo fruited
mountain spring
orgy scented
waterfall

weeping tree
flooded river
 magma breasted
lava tree
 sowing islands
eddying delta
 coral tree
perpetually blazing
 deciduous
tree of madness
 tree of passion
set with thorns
 sweating blood
pain tree
 evergreen
showering ghosts
 shedding children
common tree
 brittle old
crowded stunted
 overshadowed tree
insect gnawed
 rot infected
lightning blasted
 husk of famine
raped mutilated
 people's tree
obelisk
 dead tree
uprooted felled
 sawn plank
hearth tree
 for warmth and fuel
table tree
 for bread and wine
architaved
 thyrsus totem
bound and staked
 earthed and fused
blood spattered
 royal trunk
nailing hell
 to paradise
gallows tree
 rising again
knuckled knotted
 blind man's staff

swordblade
 heavy hilted
thick boled
 ivory tusk
ebony spear
 erect conquering
tree in a prairie
 in a city garden
pruned and tended
 by patient hands
quiet tree
 of yes of no
of this of that
 of black of white
confluence
 of pasts and futures
rooted in ever
 praising now
flesh tree
 rimmed in muscle
blood and sweat
 sighing shivering
shuddering tree
 generous
sperm tree
 life pump
everbrimming
 around whose roots
the serpent coils
 around whose branches
flits the white bird
 tree of spirits
tree of secrets
 buried in heaven
to flower through veins
 arteries nerves
capillary tree
 meristematic
your tap root drowned
 in infinite skies
I descend up
 and ascend down
rod of aeons
 of Adam Kadmon
Jesse David
 and Sataniel
and Moses

on the high mountain
Buddha tree
Tilopa tree
zen tree
tantric tree
Kali's tree
dancing on skulls
volcanic tree
of Ashtaroth
Lilith
Ishtar and Astarte
nurturing
moss and lichen
mould gathering
mushroom tree
mother of orchids
and mistletoe
tree of Dryads
tree of Druids
where the spider weaves
and the rooks nest
and the bat flitters
and the kestrel waits
tree of lives
of consciousness
generative
language tree
speaking names
telling stories
histories
transformations
depthless tree
deathless tree
tree of comrades
of airs I breathe
unpruned
untameable
immortal tree
overarching
freedom tree
tree of love
tree of justice
human rainbow
blossoming