The Newborn

Once fairy dust in air,

inside flowers fresh;

Now inside however,

the fruit of their labor.

It surrounds the Newborn.

Gives it sustenance.

Gives the Others sustenance.

Of them all, ‘tis Mother.

Fauna, air and water

take the Newborn where

they will live their

lives forever.

It reaches both down and up.

With one hand it takes water;

With the other,

Others’ breath.

They grow slowly,

around those superior;

Who look down,

and smile.

The hands branch,

make more sunlit hands,

to make food with;

For themselves and Others.

It is now much older;

More experienced and knowing.

It lets Others snatch.

For ways of life differ.

Rationale

The first line mentions “Fairy dust in air” - This is a metaphor. Fairy dust means pollen. I chose this so that the reader does not immediately know what the poem is about. Pollination happens inside flowers and so I wrote “inside flowers fresh” “The fruit of their labor” means quite literally the fruit of the mother plant’s labor. It is an idiom. “It surrounds the Newborn” means that the fruit surrounds the seed. I capitalized the “N” to make it seem important. “Gives it sustenance” – The fruit gives food to the seed. “Gives the Others sustenance” – The fruit gives animals food. “Of them all, ‘tis Mother.” – the fruit is the mother of all living things. Then I describe how animals, air or water can transport the seed. “With one hand they take water” Hand here means the root. I think this is the point at which they have an inkling of what the poem is about. This is personification. I try not to mention anything which will directly tell the reader that all this is about trees. “with the other, Others’ breath” means that the tree uses the shoot (the part of a sapling that comes up) to take in carbon dioxide which is breathed out by animals (who are the Others). “Around those superior” I use the word superior to make it rhyme. This quote means the other trees (the setting is a forest) which are superior in age. “Who look down and smile” tells the reader that this “Newborn” is smaller than its “superiors” (the other trees). “They branch, make more hands” gives the user a hint to what the subject of the poem is. Hands mean leaves here. “It lets Others snatch” means that it lets the animals eat its fruit.