

Wind®

Winter is my favorite season to walk on the beach.

The silver-green sea and the billowing threatening gray sky seem to merge in the distance, creating an infinite horizon as I gaze seaward.

The stark cold beach is empty and lonely, but my heart is full and warm when I think of you.

Now turning my gaze, I see a large copse of cedar trees standing guard courageously by the water, a first line of sentinels, as ocean gives way to land.

The cedars are closely set and well established, and clearly have seen many other winters.

Years of the unremitting ocean's wind have shaped and entangled them like a corps of hoary unmoving dancers, arching landward in an eternal arabesque.

Perhaps gathered together for companionship and comfort, their sturdy trunks are permanently curved, leaning away from the ocean.

This very shape shows their age.

Graceful and unafraid, they accept their bent shape with resonant patience.

Yet their roughened trunks cannot but express their senescence.

Nicks and cuts and occasional empty spaces are plainly visible where branches once grew.

Here and there, lovers have carved their initials into the bark of some trees.

These ancient cedars are no longer pristine.

You and I share kinship with those trees.

Like those cedars, you and I have been shaped by the constant wind of our years, and by the gradual wisdom only time brings.

Like those cedars, we remember those who once carved their initials in our hearts, leaving evidence of their transitory presence in our lives, and then drifted away to other shores.

Through it all, we have grown slowly steadfast like those trees.

Side by side we stand, seemingly separate, yet with our branches deliciously intertwined, and living with a sense of deep contentedness for who we were, who we are, who we might yet become.

We thrive by the salty sea, and we fearlessly accept the ceaseless wind in our branches and the unmistakable evidence of our years.

How grateful I am to be living by the ocean, still and rooted and together with you.