

Ode To A Bended Tree

by Ted Olsson, May 2024

In the forest I found a bended tree
Hidden deep among the straight and proud.
As a sapling it had grown upright, tall and free,
Then a storm-felled giant forced its bow.

The tree grew on with strength, around
Determined to reach the light and sky.
The decaying giant's trunk held it down.
Could not consume the tree, or make it lie.

As years passed, the giant slipped away.
Left a different form within the wood.
Perfect curves stand apart and sway,
With inner strength, thrived on, withstood.

Over decades how this elm's grown large.
Enough to catch the shipwright's eye.
Bends to fit the hull of brig or barge.
Valued for its form and perfect size.

Blessed to protect your woodland home,
Strengthen my will to persist and be.
I will not have your loss to bemoan,
Forest hear my ode to a bended tree.