

Lights and Shadows

Volume 17 *Lights and Shadows* Volume 17

Article 12

1973

Autumn Reflections

Jeanne Wells

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Wells, J. (1973). Autumn Reflections. *Lights and Shadows*, 17(1). Retrieved from <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows/vol17/iss1/12>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by UNA Scholarly Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Lights and Shadows* by an authorized editor of UNA Scholarly Repository. For more information, please contact jpate1@una.edu.

Jeanne Wells

Autumn Reflections

Bare, tangled, twisted branches
Starkly etched, gauntly curved
Irresolute to winter's chill
Stand shivering, shaking
Alone, desolate.

Twisting in harmony
With winter's cold currents
Crossing and rubbing
In cacaphony hushed.
Limbs scrape and hum,
Creaking and groaning
Against withered echo
Of parched, wrinkled remnants
Of leaves once green
Now clinging to notes,
Sad dirge hushed and whispered,
Shadows of symphony, shadows of life.

History's winters etched in
 Bark damp, brown, cracked
 withered peels from lichen's hold
 Hard, rough nuts chased by squirrel's grasp
 In woodpecker's holes and paths of ant's crawl
 Stark straw-woven nests once vibrant
 With life, chirps, and flutter
 To return in time, after
 Completing life's cycle
 Of annual revolution.

Cycles of torment, cycles of change
 Dancing leaves caught by swirling gusts
 Leaving twisted branches knarled and naked
 Only buds whisper of revolution's spring
 Yesteryear's sorrows opening to blue sky
 Of hope and spring and rebirth to come.