

7-15-2003

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Cameron La Follette

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Recommended Citation

Follette, Cameron La (2003) "*The World Tree*," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 2003: Iss. 26, Article 11.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol2003/iss26/11>

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The World Tree

The World Tree

by

Cameron La Follette

A giant tree binding ice and flame
holds the star-spun sky
earth hangs under milk-sweet fruit--
only birds of the sun soar so high

Here all places come to silvered end
and the roads are pale and dim
no guardian holds the purpled west
nor any speak beyond its rim

The gold-branched tree stands alone
where light fountains out of fire
but few men journey ever there
hearts ragged and shorn of desire

The stories all tell this tale
we are born of the wine-dark seeds
and no man knows more
though many have done bold deeds

Truth from the amber sap and mead
blooms across white-flowered sleep
and over a windswept border
to men walking the dark-blue deep

By radiance of the sky-wreathed tree
ice never melts, nor suns burn
they who see this water and light
behold the heart, and never return.