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A GOWN OF ANGER

by Jannett Highfill

The winter wears its sunshine like a proud
and useless jacquard-woven counterpane.
A feeble snow erodes the long unplowed
unterraced fields. A California rain
invades, and soon the scrape of topsoil down
to the frost-line turns to mud. Everything
is layered and thin in winter, gray, brown,
and umber. And now the hibernating
bear in me shivering in the pale conceits
of my cloak of fat and gown of anger
wakes and snarls and assumes the rank deceits
and shifts of the hunt, then tastes the bitter
air of spring. But will anything happen?
Winter wears even rage a trifle thin.