

Message from the Rooted World

© By Vijaya Sundaram

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(Written for, and read at Mayor Lungo-Koehn's Inauguration on Jan. 10th, 2024)

Insistent and interweaving,
Strong and sturdy roots, not leaving
Room for doubt, clutch at the earth
Where mother trees, in daylight birth
Their treelings, which all grow together
In the sun, or gloomy weather.

Fungal filaments transmitting
News that seems unplanned, unwitting
But, in fact, have all found root
In storied forests, greening shoots,
Take their songs of health and healing
Through the soil, to trees appealing
To their rooted sense and strength
Through all their breadth and all their length.

And so do we through all our stories,
All our losses, all our glories,
Carry messages of sharing
In our giving and our caring
In differences find common goals
Our unique and united souls.

And this, our rich community
With caring and humanity
Could grow a space that's free of strife
A shining city, filled with life
Salute the old, embrace the new,
Reject all wrongs, avow what's true.

A forest humming, richly green
Is rooted in its place between
This swaying bridge of birth and death,
It sings its song and gives us breath
So, too, shall we, in growing bands,
Conjoin our forces, join our hands,
In different voices, sing as one,
And branching, reach towards the sun.
