

## Willow

by sam *Friday, Jun 6 2014, 11:52am*

international / poetry / post



i once asked,  
with all the innocence  
of a child,  
“why do willows weep?”  
the answer, as most answers  
to my serious questions,  
was wholly unsatisfactory  
but  
i was not deterred

the lake, pond and billabong  
host my favourite tree;  
as i developed i attributed  
its weeping to the cruel manner  
in which humans treat  
each other and the world  
around them

willows where everywhere  
reminding man, i thought,  
to be kind to the earth  
especially the waterways  
which thronged with life  
in those days.

during my enforced service  
in Vietnam

it became obvious  
that willows weep  
over the futility of war

but i returned  
and considered it anew  
and realised that perhaps  
willows do not weep at all  
they simply mimmick water,  
it seemed as though nature  
expressed water in a tree  
hence that great sympathy  
which bonds tree to water  
forever

this new view revealed another  
dimension, willows now 'draped'  
the banks of waterways  
and waltzed in the breeze,  
they belonged, they had a place  
a highly selective location  
in which to express their unique  
relationship with water, air and earth

in later years  
i realised that harmony  
ruled  
-- with a gentle hand --  
all things natural  
and that man was  
the aberrant species,  
an incongruity  
in creation --  
such appalling  
conduct and habits

i lamented man's opposition  
to harmony  
to everlasting

today i see  
willows in all their various guises  
water expressed as tree  
tree expressed as dance  
and dance mimicking harmony

i see at times,  
in their graceful swaying,  
that indeed  
willows weep silently  
for me



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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-514.html>