

Autumn Splendor!

by Fauzia Simjee McClure

The breeze feels cool and refreshing as it brushes against my skin
The sun's golden rays are less intense
Yet, splendidly reflect the rich colors of autumn
Which are so very vivid, and out here, so immense

The once green, quaking aspen leaves
Have changed into brilliant hues
Of yellow, amber, and gold
Of burnt orange, crimson, and marigold

These radiant colors light up the vast Sierra terrain
Transforming the scenery into an enchanted domain
Some of the leaves have already fallen on the ground
Cushioning my feet, as I walk over them, making a slight, crackling sound

I gaze towards the sky to see flocks of geese and ducks
Take their flight in perfect v-formation, just beneath the puffy white clouds
All flying south ever so gracefully, in anticipation of
And to escape and take shelter from, autumn's first frost

That familiar, soothing fragrance captivates the air
The smell of wilting, drying leaves; the taste of apple pie is almost everywhere
The aroma of baked pears escaping from grandma's kitchen
Folks down south are enjoying the tree-ripened pomegranate and persimmon

The sun sets early beyond the infinite horizon
Yielding to the mysteries of darkness and a prelude to the winter season
There is a gentle chill amidst the calmness of the evening
This year is almost, yet another year old, another year leaving

The long days of summer past, now grow shorter and shorter
I head to bed early as darkness sets in sooner, giving way to brisk nights that grow ever so longer
I am quite excited about wearing my cozy hats, dangling scarves, and wool sweaters
Especially the one mom knitted, auburn in color and just right for the weather

I search through the old keepsake trunk in my dusty, cob-webbed attic
Looking for my cherished collections, mementos, and holiday magic
The trinkets and ornaments that will decorate my home so beautifully
That will put a smile on all who visit; I plan to enjoy the season ever so completely

Oh, how I cherish the arrival of Sierra's autumn
It marks the beginning of the holiday season
With Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas all approaching
My heart grows calmer, my spirit is warming

Let us all rejoice in this wonderful season
Embrace its' glories, its' pleasure, its' creation
Although it undoubtedly arrives each and every year
Let us not take for granted, autumn's full splendor!