

## Trees with Personality

A cheerful collection from Wells Shoemaker

The Doors' plaintive song, *People are Strange*, includes a haunting line:

*When you're strange, faces come out of the rain*

Woodturners and woodworkers who hike until they get tired have learned that faces sometimes come out of the trees. Voices, too, and that's just the beginning. We'll see!



*Lignosaurus Rex, Moss Landing Beach after a storm*



Alien Face, Klamath Foxtail Pine, Trinity Alps

2 Faces come out of the Trees





My Celtic ancestors believed in the “Green Man,” a mythical figure who lived in the trees and symbolized rebirth and restoration. He performed mischievous deeds...and apparently also had a way with the lasses. The image above, from a burl-encrusted, natural cathedral in the Forest of Nisene Marks, would suggest that the Green Man made it to California long before the Vikings and Columbus landed.





*Black Acacia*

Love is where you find it



4 Faces come out of the Trees





Ghosts and Ghouls



5 Faces come out of the Trees





An animated conversation followed the separation of the conjoined twins...Big Sur





Future Vision: North America in charcoal and moss...on a stump in Nisene Marks  
Yucatan is there, but Baja California has been inundated with global warming.





*Bristlecone in Great Basin NP, Nevada*

Who, Me, Officer? *Impossible!* I've been right here for 3000 years

8 Faces come out of the Trees





*Adolescent red fir, sunset light on the Snow Mountain Summit on the Summer Solstice*

I just gotta be me, and, golly! I'm just so happy!





Kokopelli lives here...apparently for a long, long time



Utah, of course, in Wood and Stone



Getting kinky out there in the woods



*Cottonwood Canyon, Death Valley*



*Aspens, Great Basin NP*



*Muley Twist Canyon, Utah*





*Red fir relics, Snow Mountain Summit*



*Limber Pines, flanks of Telescope Peak*

## Twins and Triplets

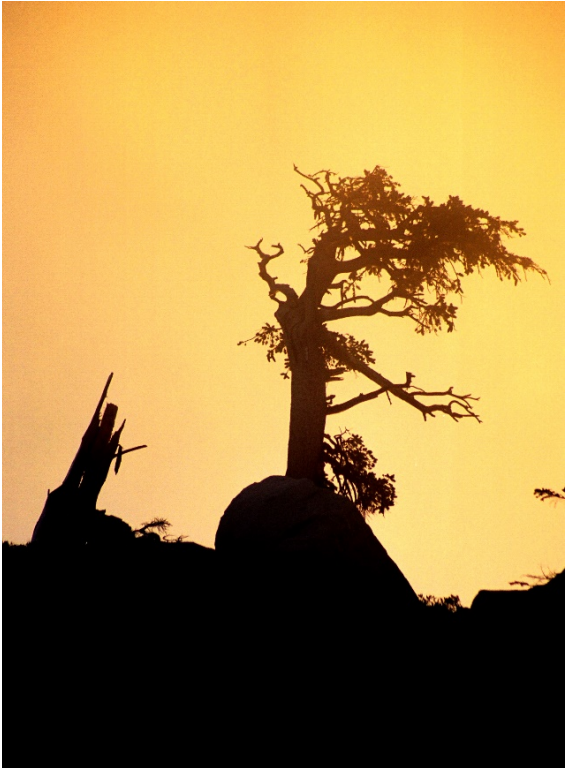


*Hemlock Triplets in Trinity Alps*



*Western White Pines in Sequoia NP*





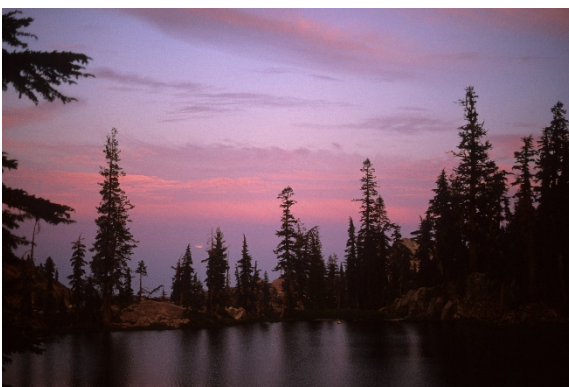
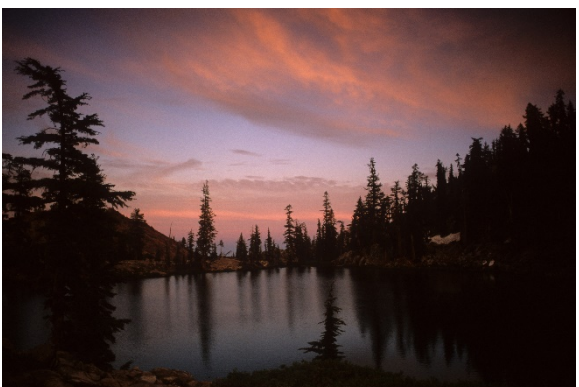
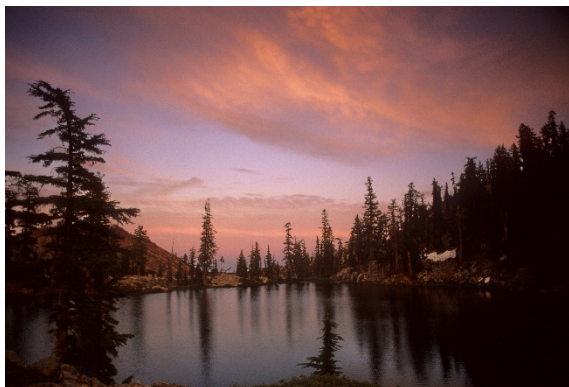
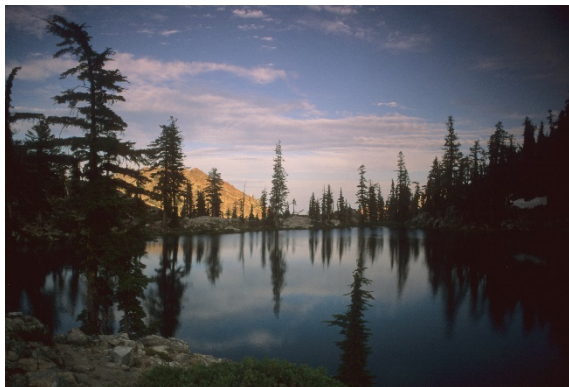
*Winged Victory Foxtail Pine, Foster Lake, Trinity Alps*

What a difference a few hours...or years...can make in what you see



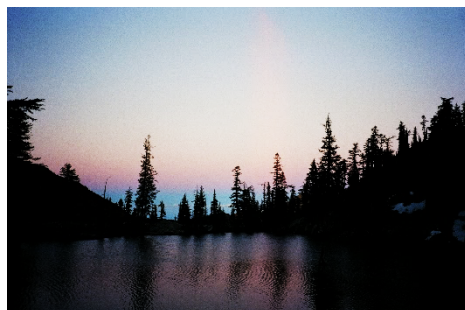
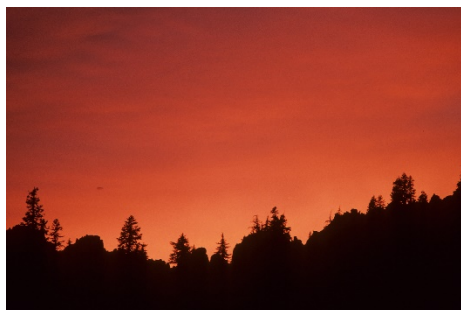
*Three sentinels Snow Mountain Summit 2002 and 2010..."The wind sure blows lonely way up there"*





*Ward Lake, Trinity Alps "Haystacks" lighting changes with the setting sun*

After a hard day's work, relax and watch what happens while our planet rotates.



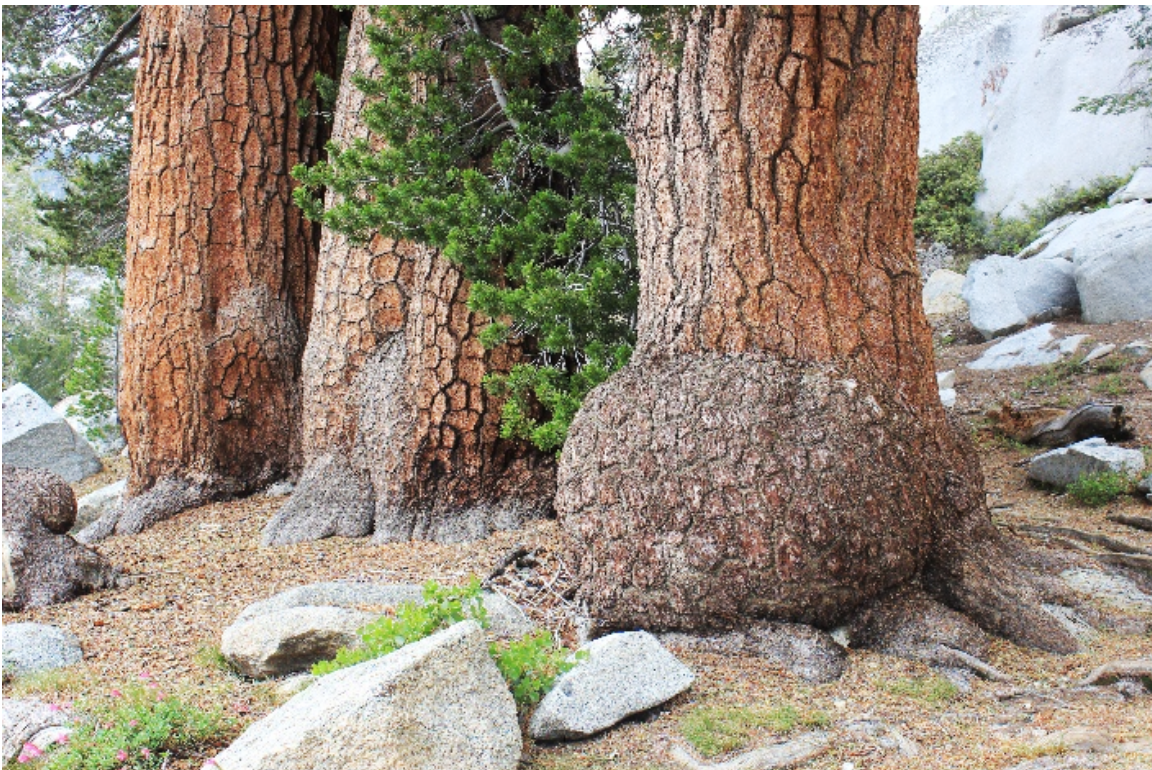
Don't forget to turn around...and get up early the next morning. The trees are waiting



## Tutorial: Medical Conditions in the Woods!



*Gout*



*Unintended Pregnancy...Hey, Ultrasound reveals: It's a Burl!*





*Chronic Fatigue Syndrome*



*Hypothermia*

*Battle Rock, Port Orford, Oregon*

16 Faces come out of the Trees





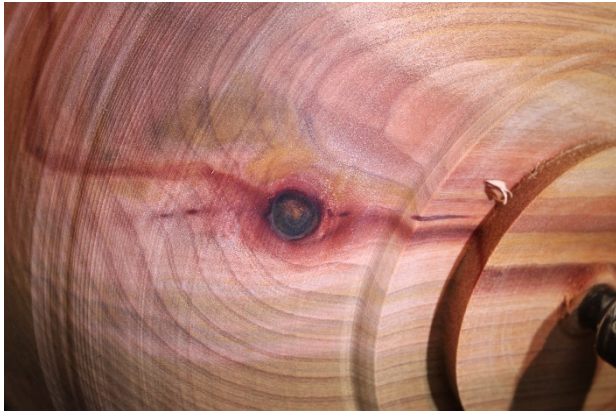
*Progeria*



*ED*



## Ophthalmology Lessons



*Pink eye*



*Xerophthalmia*



*Arcus Senilis*



*Ptoxis*



*Corneal abrasion*



*Ocular migraine*



## Dermatology Lessons



*Hirsutism*



*Eczema*



*Ganglion*



*Verruca vulgaris*



*Tinea versicolor*



*Lichen Planus with secondary  
Fungus*



## More Dermatology



*Buckeye, Wilder SP*

*Neurofibromatosis*



*Karri Tree, Western Australia*

*Jaundice*



*Corns*



*Psoriasis*





*Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome*



*Vitiligo*



*Occult Parasitosis*





*Alopecia areata*



*Desquamation*



## Tree Pilates



*Yes, one of these organisms really is Limber*



*Do the Twist, Sir Ponderosa*

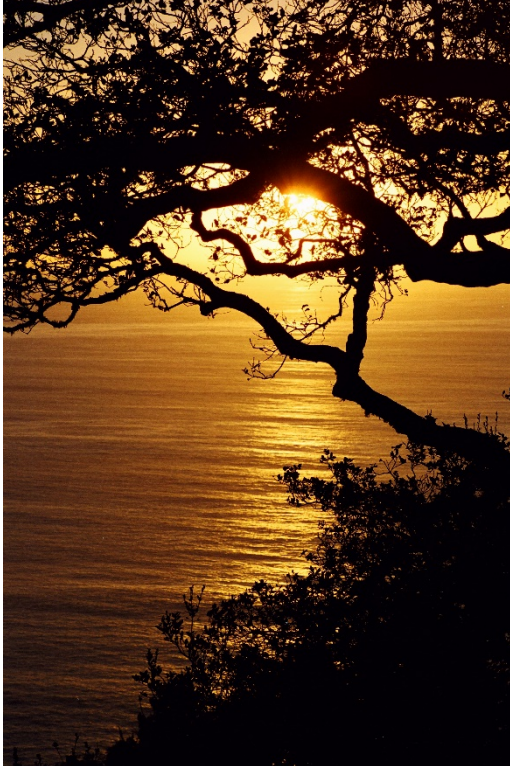


*Scorpion Pose*



*Yoga at 7500 feet*





*Pacific Ocean from Nepenthe, Big Sur*



*Bristlecone, Telescope Peak, Death Valley*

Find your spot!

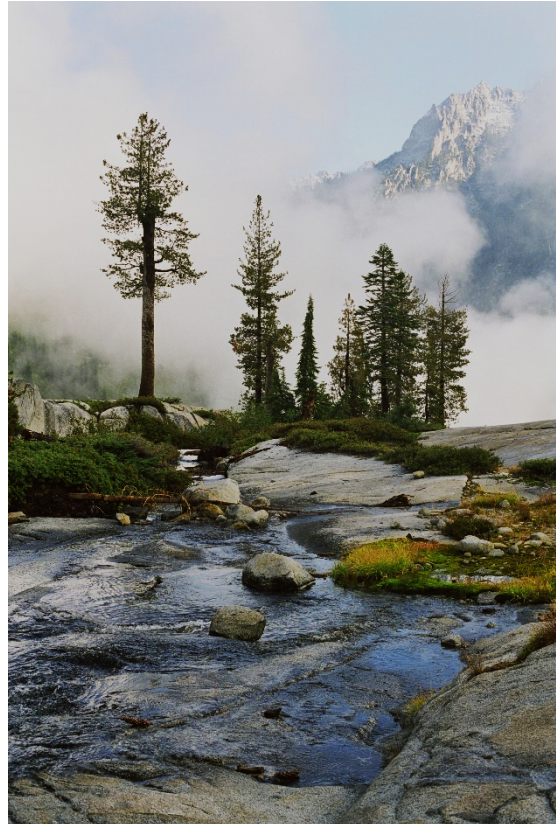


*Foxtail Pine rules the Ridge, Trinity Alps*



*Seven Up Pass, Trinity Alps*





Location matters when you'll be staying for a while



*Limber pine snag overlooking Hanaupah Canyon and Badwater, Death Valley, from Telescope Peak*



Trees don't need anthropomorphic imagery to be intriguing, of course



*Aspens, Ponderosa, and Spruce, Pleasant Creek, Boulder Mountain, Utah*

*Celebrate Diversity*



Look it up!



*Redwoods in Nisene Marks*



*Massive Ponderosas, Approaching Bear Lake, Trinity Alps*





Look Up, and Look Down, too



Beauty is Everywhere—Navajo saying

28 Faces come out of the Trees





*Nike has a swell swoosh, but...*

*Dawn off-trail below Sawtooth Peak on a 2 week solo vision quest...fulfilled!*



*Prismatic dawn light show through mixed conifers above Smith Lake, Trinities*





*Cottonwood Autumn Splendor, Horse Canyon, Escalante, Utah*

It's silly to hide your gold in a bank

30 Faces come out of the Trees





*Poison Canyon, Trinity Alps*

Stand Tall and Never Surrender





*The Old Boy: Giant ancient Southern Foxtail Pine above George's Lake, Sequoia NP*

It's OK to act your age if you've been positively spectacular for a thousand years.





*Another face...they do come out*

True, Size often matters. Determination matters more







*Piñons, Mt. Ellen, Henry Mountains, looking into Colorado*

If you're going to be staying for a while, spread out and relax



*Escalante*





*Kupinae, Marovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands*

It's nice to be warm



*Costa Rica*





*Red Canyon, Utah*

Utah's trees don't wuss out when it snows



Get up early and follow the sun



*Joshua Tree at Dawn, Mojave Desert*



*Warlock Defiance tree at sunset, Snow Mountain NM*





*Slope of Seven-Up Peak, Trinity Alps*

Stay close to those you love. Age and senescence may be inevitable,  
but enduring love takes constant work. It lasts forever





*Bristlecone pas de deux, Great Basin NP*

*Dance of a long life marked by hardship and beauty*





*Plumeria, Lani Kai, Oahu*

It's OK to dress up





*Alpenglow reflection, Pear Lake, Sequoia NP*

Wear red if makes you feel better



*Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah*





*Lone Oak near Stonyford, CA*

It's also OK to be alone for a while if you're secure in your roots



*Lone Madrone above La Honda...long ago*





Something about oak trees...They can go it alone in so many different environments







*Berry Cabin, Utah*

Loneliness is one thing. Cold and lonely and living in a crack is rough duty





*Greeter Bonsai Ponderosa, Petroglyph Rock, Fish Creek Cove, Utah*

If you're committed to living alone, choose to look down upon the world





*Pear Lake, Sequoia NP*

Keep water handy





*Piñon above Nameless Canyon, Death Valley...trackless, desolate, stubborn, inspirational*

Loneliness can be overdone





*Venerable Coast Live Oak, near Wilder Ranch SP, Santa Cruz*

Better sometimes to create a community



*Red desert below the San Rafael Swell, Eastern Utah*

*Easier said than done in some environments*

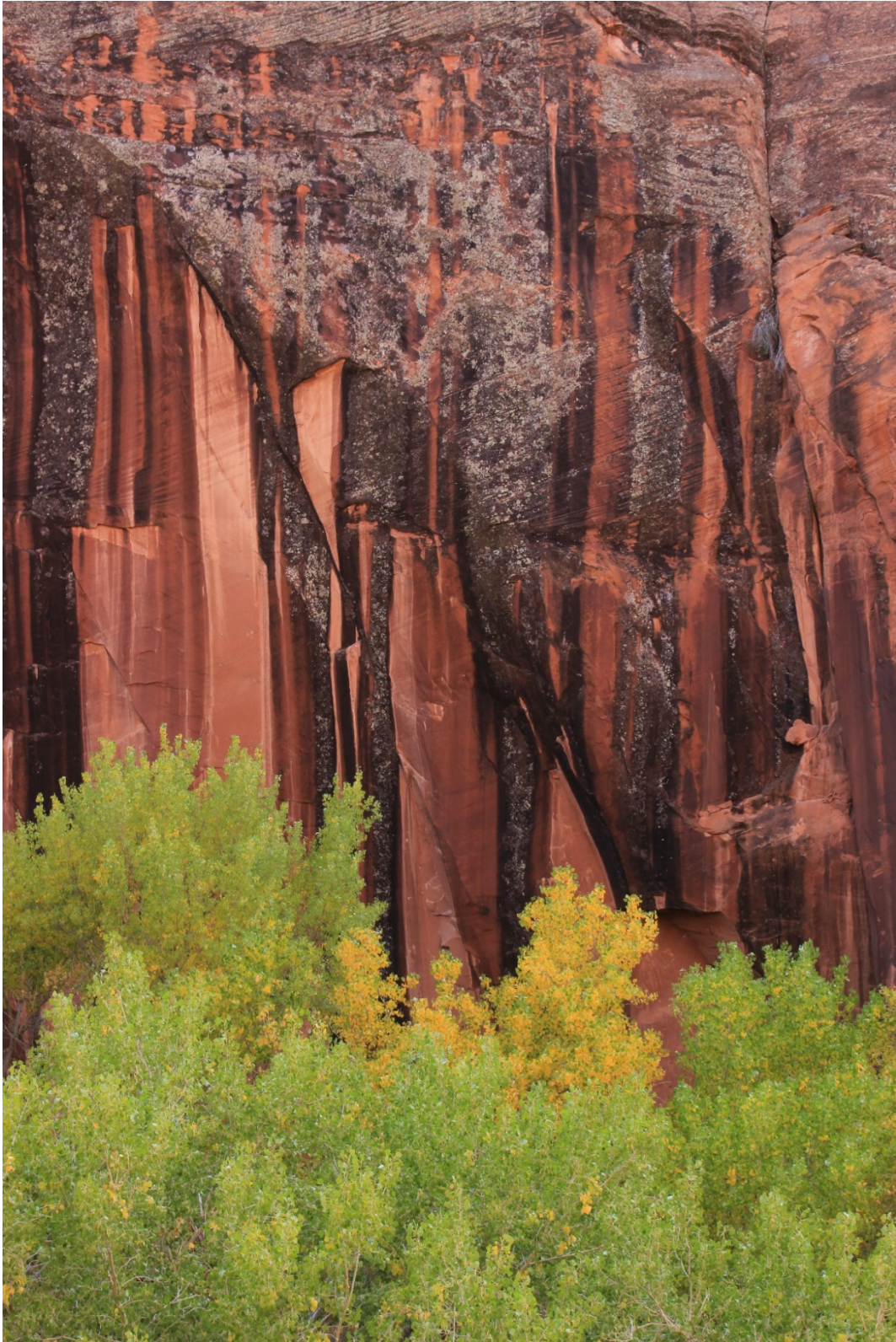




*At least 5 species of Conifers, Tarn, Caribou Basin, Trinity Alps*

Chill out with your friends around the pool





*Horse Canyon, Escalante NM, Utah*

Better still to share beauty with your friends

50 Faces come out of the Trees





*Mirror Lake, Trinity Alps*

Take Time to Reflect





*Morris Lake, Trinity Alps*

Reflections are great as long as you're not merely admiring yourself







*Sawtooth Peak, Trinity Alps*

Stay safe! Watch your head, and...

Hansel, don't trust breadcrumbs to find your way home in these woods



*Bear Gulch, Stuarts Fork, Trinity Alps*





*Life can be hard  
Bend, don't break*



*Ours is not to question Y  
Ours is but to do or die*





And remember...



X never marks the Spot

—*Indiana Jones, 1989*



Knock on wood when you can



*Utah Juniper knuckle, estimated 200 years old, rescued from the firewood pile*

This collection spans more than 50 years walking beneath the trees with a camera!  
Thanks for sharing!

Wells Shoemaker MD, January, 2022

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May the light find you smiling, and may the trees shelter you

