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Autumn

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Steven J. Maloney

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Crossing the bridge from summer to winter
like some obscure Hokusai, a Keats Ode
rings in the mists of memory; the road
not taken beckons, its damp leaves colder
than before. Musty texts read well again,
and sweet cooking smells waft through my window,
bringing a bright moon along now and then,
(honored guest), while gull anthems presage snow.
That old saint under the bridge doesn't seem
to care he'll be needing blankets soon; he
just sits there, paper in hand, glad to see
the passing show, knowing it's all a dream.
Autumn: a return to where we've once been,
a time to ponder the spaces between.