



December 2018

## Autumn

Steven J. Maloney  
*Western Michigan University*

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### Recommended Citation

Maloney, Steven J. (2018) "Autumn," *The Hilltop Review*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/hilltopreview/vol11/iss1/10>

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# Autumn

*Steven J. Maloney*

Autumn

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.