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Winter: An Icy Ally

Tshepo Molefe

Beware the cold front.
A feverish fiend,
pushing warm frenemies
in its unyielding stride.
The clouds follow suit
in propelling their pace.

Their objective:
to test the formation of boys
gathering on a mountaintop.
You too will be asked to join
their journey to manhood.

Remember,
some will falsify their bravery.
Will choose to declare themselves
“strong”.

They are yet to know
the weather’s chisel.
She is far too familiar with
extracting innocence
seeped in their brine.

But you know better.
You know this venture
promises turbulence.
Will stress your character
to the point of breaking.
The nobility in your word
will strain.

Don't be deterred.
Winter was not made
for your unravelling.
It has come to uncover your core.
The harshness will build you up.
The cold will remind you
of your resistance.
Let it build you into ice
that outlives seasons.

Then tell summer
to do its worst.
Now you know
you can stand
the test of
time.