

3rd Depth (Spring) is “little s” source: the transformation of SOURCE (6th Depth) into a vibration that can build and nourish a living form. Its element is KEY (KI). Wood is another understanding of the element of 3rd Depth: the result of the amalgamation of air, fire, water and earth: living, growing beings.

Lately I’ve been listening to the Pulse in trees. I’m finding there’s a common quality shared by each tree of a particular species. As with people, a single tree expresses its pulse (its creation) differently according to season, time of day, and experience of the moment. Snapshots of the pulses of a few trees have arranged themselves into this poem:

*Madrone: a smooth herd of horses
cantering (slo-mo)*

*Oak: filigree-silk in sea wind lifting up into
itself and unfurling*

*Summer solstice, 2008, after the first winter so
warm no snow fell in Riga, a pine’s
respiration’s pulled translucent as salt-
water taffy:*

*Inspiration: 13 – 20 seconds:
a vigorous sucking root → leaf (question: is “up”
the tree’s inhale? its exhale?) billowing
chiffon, a diaphanous virility up up up
pause — pause —*

*Then expiration (?) (“down”):
shorter: 9 – 12 seconds:
sun-motes, diffuse after-thought, silting*

Like the accretion of yellow pollen billows the Baltic’s edging

After hearing these qualities in the tree's pulses, I asked a plant scientist to describe a tree's respiration. She explained that a tree pumps fluid from root to leaf (this is like our intake of food, as the fluid contains nutrients). Some of this fluid (mostly water, H₂O) evaporates through the leaves, this is how oxygen is released into the air. (Interestingly, Evaporation is a 3rd Depth activity). Carbon dioxide, linked with light-energy of the sun, is inhaled by the leaves and flows downward, in circulating and dispersing throughout the tree's body.