

Deep Ecology

By José “Tony” Alcántara

Like most people, I'm a shade parasite.
On those ninety degree days, I hunker
down in the cool embrace of a cottonwood
or an aspen grove. I have done nothing
to deserve this, but maybe the first step
in learning to give is learning to receive.

So I sit here studying the masters, breathing
in their generosity, wondering what my leaves
will look like, my branches, my trunk,
when I have attained oak wisdom,
redwood serenity; wondering what I will say,
what I will do, when the man comes
and sits in my shade, sharpening his ax.