

## Climbing Trees

by darcy Sunday, Sep 6 2015, 4:22pm

international / poetry / post

i do not know what  
attracts young boys  
to climb trees but the  
impulse is irresistible

a tree stands strong and firm  
in the ground but branches skyward  
offering a vantage, perspective,  
a certain freedom that ground dwellers  
cannot appreciate

accessible lower branches support weight  
but care must be taken as one gains height  
and every new branch must be tested for strength  
as one ascends

perhaps the desire to conquer  
or just the raw delight of climbing  
and negotiating risk are factors  
in the attraction,  
who can say?

young girls lack the impulse  
an oddity to boys though female  
behaviour is always a mystery  
to males  
but to a boy there is nothing like it  
the higher one climbs the more exhilarating  
the experience  
until precarious levels are reached where  
smaller green branches may give way  
and ruin a good climb with a broken limb or two  
though danger sharpens coordination and teaches  
personal limits to be exceeded on the next climb

every tree poses a different challenge  
some have slender athletic trunks with  
higher difficult to grasp branches  
other trees have sturdy,  
broad and contoured trunks with  
low forming buttress supports  
some long powerful branches

seem to float in the air,  
such is their strength

most trees have something to offer  
intrepid youth and daring  
though certain trees cannot be scaled  
from the ground without the support  
of shoulders from a mate who in turn  
waits to be hoisted aloft

i remember those joyous climbs  
and later negotiating ledges on sky scrapers  
without a harness while cleaning windows  
and edging around corners twenty five or more  
stories above ground to save time  
and avoid the need to gain entry from inside  
and then have to climb out on the ledge again  
but i learned my limits well as a boy  
though i was fired for not observing safety  
regulations though i was as sure-footed  
as a mountain goat with the added advantage  
of experienced climbing arms and a firm grip

my success in life some attribute to my daring  
but i calculate every move as i did as a boy  
minimising risk though to the uninitiated  
it seemed as though i was supremely daring  
but observers were obviously mommy's boys,  
soft TV watchers, indoor boys who we  
teased when they ventured away from their mothers

street kids have a huge advantage even over  
toffs given easy rides by their fathers to cushy jobs  
and insider dealing, none of them are able to cope  
with an educated street kid  
who learned his skills climbing trees  
and pushing personal limits  
to eventually tower above the herd