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New Year

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New Year

PATRICIA CLARK

I've been sitting, for the longest time,
watching an oak loaded with snow.
White outlines every branch
from trunk to narrowing tips.
The weight must be heavy.
It is not bowed or bent.
Older than I am, than my grief,
the oak now sits in the first
sunlight of the week. Almost
unnoticeably, streams of moisture
appear on the dark trunk, and then
I hear, if I'm very still and can
forget myself, chunks of snow slide
off, falling to the frozen ground.