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A Long Way Home

By Richard Nally

Slowly flowing from snow-peaked mountains
The gentle water runs.

Passing along the tree-lined shore,
A leaf drops into the tranquil current.

As the water moves along its path,
The stream evolves into a river.
Together water and leaf meander through nature's realm.

The water travels over rocks and bumps,
Moving the leaf along like a cloud floating in the wind.
As the water bounces over the riverbed's imperfections,
The leaf slowly begins to fray.

Continuing its uncertain journey
The river begins to pick up speed,
As if powered by an invisible engine.
Faster and faster,
The river cascades downstream,
Hastening the leaf's decay like an ice cube melted by the noon day sun.

Eventually water and leaf reach the inevitable end of their journey.
Exhilarating, tumultuous, the roaring waterfall beckons their arrival.

As the water roars over the angry precipice
The brave, battered leaf is swallowed by the misty foam, lost to the world forever