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## The Tree

**Helmi Ben Meriem**

I sat under the tree,  
I spent my days as a toddler  
in her shade, like an angel  
under the tree of wisdom.

I looked at the swing,  
I hung in her middle bough  
years ago. I played with it  
thinking it will last forever.

Days have gone, years have gone,  
and I still have dwelt under the tree.  
She gave me hope,  
She gave me condolences.

I, now, cut her middle bough.  
I turn it into a hatchet.  
I will chop this tree,  
And make it go down on earth.

She does not deserve to live anymore,  
She has lost the right to live.

Her womb has turned into a tomb.

She is the destroyer, not creator of joy.

O, I lament ancient days.

O, I lament the tree.

But I shall celebrate the lives

Of those saved from Sua.

There shall be no gibbets anymore.

The tree is down.