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XXIII, XL

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Ware: XXIII, XL

XXIII

Joshua A. Ware

Gnarled and knobby. A stump ruptures
the kitchen floor.
Fractured linoleum hefts pagan hymns
heavenward. Ribbons weave oxygen stories.
Tree-hands clasp a brother, embrace him
to bark. Flesh to wood. Enjoin him to
words
made of pulp, the chapter of how man
returned
foisted authorship in the night. Tree-thieves.
One brother to another cultivates
the new American garden
while asbestos dogs¹ howl behind digital
barns.
At the edge of civilization,
he confuses hedgerows and earthbanks
with oak and hollies. Beavers with sluices²
Fingers bleed from binary paper cuts.

XL

Skull-face kids upend manicured lawns.

¹ **tangential:** *adj.* 1. of or along a tangent. 2. divergent. 3. to brilliantly survey English literature under the paradigm of binaries, only to crumble under the weight of binaries. 4. peripheral. 5. understand that the chained bark no longer instills fear. Authorities outlawed flame-retardant materials due to asbestosis (a lung disease resulting from the inhalation of asbestos particles).

² **supersaturate:** *v.tr.* 1. beyond the point of saturation. For example, see Eliot, T. S. *The Waste Land and other Poems*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1934. 47-54. *Editor's note:* Please, also see "meta-textual" for further information on this subject.