

From "Thirty Poems of Joy" in *Swimming in God*

By Tina Datsko de Sánchez

9.

What if prayer is like a tree?

In moonlight, our roots reach deep into moist soil.

In sun and wind, our branches stretch to blossom and bear fruit.

As above, so below: roots and branches both expand,

This balance keeps the tree healthy.

The heart grows strong and mediates

All things from its flowing core.