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## Footprints in the Snow

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## Footprints in the Snow

Christopher Mundis

I walked through a forest  
as snow fell gently.  
Each branch was robed in white.  
The ground was cloaked  
with its frozen frosting.  
The once drab browns  
of tree bark were now  
beautified by contrast  
with the unblemished white snow.  
The road ahead of me  
was immaculate as  
the sculptor's marble,  
but when I look back,  
I see my footprints  
have marred its pristine surface.  
What am I to do  
now that I have disturbed  
the beauty which cannot  
be unmarred? I could  
try to smooth it over,  
to fill the void  
my foot has left,  
but the mark  
would still be there.  
As I pondered this problem,  
I saw a bird,  
a cardinal, red  
as a rose against the snow,  
looking for seed on the ground  
and leaving his own footprints.  
Where the snow was once blank,  
like paper waiting  
to be written upon,  
now there is a pattern:  
a web, a dance, a mark  
saying, Look, I was here.  
If his footprints

do not mar the snow,  
then why should mine?