

# Seasonal Affective Disorder

*by* Gary Hardaway

## **How Sloth Does Leaves**

The oak leaves, and elm,  
lie thick on the graying leaves of grass  
and more, many more, still wave  
in the small, cool breeze that stirs  
this day of shortening days.  
A man of action would take to his rake  
but Sloth would rather watch and wait  
for snow to erase each leaf on leaf.

## **Incognito**

Most of the cosmos  
is invisible to us.

We know it's there  
by calculated inference.

No doubt the dark  
energy and matter

notice how we treat  
our own speck of universe

and hide, camouflaged,  
to protect themselves from us.

## **Missing the Sirius Satellite Holiday Soundtrack**

Someone failed to switch  
the background music on  
and the silence is worse  
than the world's worst  
Christmas compilation  
(with four versions of "I  
Saw Mommy Kissing Santa  
Claus" and two Rat Pack  
variations of "It's  
a Marshmallow World  
in the Winter") which,  
although egregious, masked  
the car lot sales pitches  
and bitching about the thermostat  
and the ex-wives which,  
in the absence of "Silver  
Bells" and "Dixie Land  
Band from Santa Claus  
Land", disturb the air  
at wavelengths far too audible.

## **The Twenty-second**

A weight  
of cold and cloud

A dread  
of dead leaves  
under skeletal limbs

A slash

of tamped-out  
house fire odor

Sparrows  
terrorize a robin.

### **The Magi**

Once wars for gold are done,  
one may mask the rot  
with frankincense and myrrh.

