

Diligence

The Bamboo Bearer

Beneath the weathered frame of wood,
Where patient branches curve and climb,
A careful keeper does what's good
Requires of her: she takes her time.

Black paws grip tight the slender stalk,
Each leaf examined, pulled and turned,
No hurried feast, no careless walk,
Each bite of green must first be earned.

No haste disturbs her measured pace,
Each leaf consumed, each stem embraced.
The world may hurry, rush and spin,
Yet still she finds her strength within.

What seems like ease is careful art –
The way she holds, the way she chews,
Diligence lives in every part
Of those who know what effort's due.

So watch it work beneath the leaves,
A lesson in what diligence achieves.
That steady hands will always show,
Success will always come slow.