

Rock Bottom

I fear we'll hit rock bottom.
It seems the only way we'll learn.
"Don't worry," replies a Lichen chorus,
"Rock bottom (and top and even inside)
Is somewhere we thrive,
Not just on the trees.
Did you know we make soil
From those rocks?
We work slowly, to be sure,
But we don't give up.
And the secret to our success?
Diversity and partnership
We are a community in creative collaboration:
Algae and Cyanobacteria capture the sunlight,
Multi-celled Fungi build our home,
Yeast make potions to keep us safe.
Intimately tied so close,
We Lichens are a trinity
Working together to transform
Stone into Life.
We happily create
The oxygen and soil you need.
Just be sure to save
The best seeds to sow.
We'll be there to help them grow,
If you tend them with love
When you're at rock bottom."

Donna Esposito, © 2025