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Ascetic

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Ascetic

While the wood chips embark on their
Rancor, I huddle myself
In the pre-snow season,
Awaiting orders to split and rick
The hickory. Bark
Hustles the heat from my hands,
Each digit
Cold. Practical, my father
Shucks his black leather
Gloves in my direction.

I wonder at the warmth that remains.

17 January 2001
Paul M. Bush

Ascetic--self-discipline, self-denial <from Greek askein--to work>
Rancor--bitter, long-lasting resentment <from Latin rancere--to stink, be rotten>
Hustle--to work energetically <from Dutch husselen--to shake>