



## Ode to Lichen

By Ryan Rubin



The creative creature resting on mother nature's right hand,  
Perfectly crafted from selection, a combination of fungus and algae.

Our natural world throws obstacles and danger its way, from  
The frigid unending tundras to the scorching Sahara. The beast  
thrives.

So efficiently working together, fed by the algae and protected by the  
fungi.

No other organism like it, a delicate spawn of nature's influence.

But the naive rebel, push lichen off the trees without thought.

Slash.

Swoop.

Crumble.

Unaware of lichen's benefit to the tree and rock.

Its beauty selflessly provides moisture and protection,  
And in exchange it thrives, living life without any bother.

