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Maiden Mantle

Rick D. Hallbeck
Tennessee State University

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Maiden Mantle

Rick D. Hallbeck

The maiden mantle of winter's mask
Shelters with sheet the naked seed.
It's bound to bloom, to break the shell
And grow and give the senses gift.

A shift in season attracts the sun
While the risen rose in ruby wine
Springs slow and through the driven snow.

The stem is cut to kill the cold,
To die is death for simple days,
And the maiden mantle melts away.