Star God Maple
Keith Waterland

A red and yellow leaf
floated to the ground—
A painted star god
returning to earth.

Another one:
fire bright orange
and purple,
let go of its place in the heavens
where it converted light to energy
softly slipping
slowly descending
gliding and alighting
with other
solar stained
star god maples.

The north wind
whispers and roars,
spilling star gods
across the sky
twirling and floating
piling on the ground
where they return to the earth
crunched into nutrients
for those who will come
to smile with
yellow blue abandon
with their faces
warm in the sun.