

**YES !**

***<sup>1</sup>I am a tree of the mountains Yes when a bud breaks forth upon the Yes when two lovers carve their names having lain beneath Yes to the snow drifting heavy on my pendulous Yes Do I say Yes to the squirrel eating my seeds Yes to the bird's nest Yes to the bear's claws Yes to the unseen wood-pecker Yes to the sun as I shade the forest Yes please to the Buddha sitting like a lotus flower Yes to the bough-breaking storm Yes to the snake hole in between Yes to many seasons and Yes gladly at last to the woodman's deep & final kiss of steel I say Yes Yes even to the following saws and planes and Yes again to the flowers that rest gentle on my polished form - a table in your peaceful temple Yes Oh Yes***

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<sup>1</sup> with an acknowledgment to Joyce's *Andalusian Girl*