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Ashes

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Juana de Ibarbourou

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J. Salvador Peralta translating *Juana de Ibarbourou*

Ashes

The fire has gone out. There remains only a soft
Pile of ashes,
Where a flame once waved.
There you have it, my friend, turned into a tranquil heap
Of light dust,
That immense pine that gave us shade,
Cool and restless, in the summer.

So tall, so tall, it towered over the roof
Of my house.
Had I been able to fold it away
It wouldn't even fit in the large chest in the attic.

And you see what's left of the immense pine.
I who am so small and slender
What a tiny pile of dust
I'll be when I die!