

## TRIMMING THE APPLE TREES IN WINTER

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*Reiner Kunze*

*Translated by Lori M. Fisher*

With these,  
I sever all the branches in me  
that want to extend higher

Once more  
concentrating on the buds

And on the outer branches

One must be able to climb through with a basket  
through the very crown of an apple tree, say  
the old gardeners

And overgrown sorrow and overgrown joy  
must be able to make their way through  
through us