***Silver Shoots***

From the utter ruin of Hurricane Ian’s destruction arose wisps of wisdom and hope.

Ian’s fury painfully provided us with bitter reminders of our shared humanity.

Reminders that we all foster the same hopes, dreams, and desires

That when things are at their worst, we are at our best

That we are truly our brother’s keeper

And we are all brothers.

For neither did Ian favor nor spare any one group of people

Rather, without prejudice, he wielded his hammer of doom.

His howling winds, lashing rains, and terrible tides

Mercilessly crushing everything, everyone in his path

All equally subjected to the callous carnage.

Amidst Ian’s rampage, ordinary people emerged as heroes.

Unshaken, unafraid, they fearlessly faced the peril.

Many deeds of heroism and compassion were performed

Deeds, both small and large.

Tending to the sick and elderly, ferrying them to safety

Rescuing those trapped from certain annihilation

The champions aiding neighbors and strangers alike.

In Ian’s grim aftermath we face enormous challenges

Success cannot be achieved in isolation

Let us pay forward this newfound spirit of fellowship

Embrace our renewed compassion.

Working together, we shall unleash the incredible synergy of many peoples joined as one.

Side by Side as kindred spirits, we will relentlessly rebuild our shattered homes and dreams.

Let the goodness of Floridians toiling together

Shine forth bright and strong, becoming a blazing beacon for others to follow.

Let our harmonious spirit be part of the magic we bestow upon all we create anew.

Let us nurture these silver shoots, sprouting joyfully from our newly planted garden of hope.

Their silvery green leaves boldly blossom

Overspreading the treasured lands which Ian sought to destroy.

Then will we have gained true wisdom

And secured a bright future for all.