

Virus talk

“...the bacteria and viruses lived underground. But now clearcutting is letting them loose. We can send them back. Let us talk to this virus and ask it to return to the tree roots....”

--Lee Maracle

Yes some viruses live underground
Yes clearcutting may well have uprooted some and set them roaming
But from what I've heard
The story of the virus folk is bigger than that
No one version how they came about
Apparently around as long as any other living thing and as widespread
But unlike an animal or plant
They can't move themselves
They don't eat or even breathe
They can't even make their own young
When they meet a plant or animal by chance (since they can't move)
So small the animals and plants can't see or smell or even feel them when they touch them
Each kind of virus suited only to some plants or animals (though that can change)
The virus touches its animal or plant in just the right place
And tells it "Make more of me!" which it does from its own body
And each newly-made virus in the same way infects the plant or animal at the same site and issues the
same instructions
And the virus single- and simple-minded as it is will consume the body of its host in this way for the sake
of its own numbers
Until the host fights it off or dies trying
But unlike animals or plants
Once the virus eats up all it lives on this way it doesn't die off
It can wait until it is changed fit for some new host
Or just lie there patient and longlived as salt crystals
Like every thing the virus seeks to persist as itself
You will talk water into flowing uphill
Before you talk the virus into changing its nature

Montreal 18-21 March 2020