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## Bloodline, Floodplain

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## Bloodline, Floodplain

Sunroot rhizomes swell,  
strain against skin  
skin against soil  
pushing through  
mycelial mats,  
riparian gravel.

These tuberous roots  
become the earth, the river,  
my hands.

My shoulders set,  
straining. Fingers digging,  
twisting, pulling. Memory aching,  
a muscle too sore to keep working.

A probing, prising  
revelation . . .  
better buried,  
under layers of sediment?

The bones, teeth,  
and story shards  
of forebears,  
known and unknown,  
compose  
long limb, lashed eye,  
bushy brow;  
stanza  
of sunroot patch,  
floodplain,  
river network.

Following a river course,  
a root system, the path of  
sunroot . . . macerated, absorbed,  
assimilated, traces bloodlines.

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