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# The Myth of the West

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## THE MYTH OF THE WEST

Off an island coast  
the gray shark's embryo sinks.

A sudden storm  
weaves a net of stimulation.

This velvet subversion;  
a diver walks backwards into the tide  
and listens from his heels  
as the ocean hums  
in the flat blue language of the computer screen.

On the frigid side of a mountain  
a fern unfurls.  
A man on horseback picks through a clear-cut.

Traffic lights weep from hidden lacerations  
at 2AM  
the freeway jangles its spurs  
across the routes of the west.

Drought radiates from a sidewalk's whorled spine.  
Ocean salt scours an inland parking lot.

And a river, cradle of the deciduous town,  
is a split carcass bleeding sand.

One day  
a fractured skull may break free  
of the anthropologist's saline myth.  
A glacial wind will pull the names  
from the watertower's hunched shoulders.

Ninety-seven horses  
paw out from fingerlights  
of dappled ground.