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Silvester J. Brito
HOME RIVER DELTA

Brown river delta
they cannot change you.
Since I was a boy
I played with
Willow spirit friends
on your soft mud banks
of farm fresh waters.

Why are White engineers
trying to alter
those age-old channels
of your monastic rivers
that have always protected
your red rock shoulders.

That caterpillar man
does not understand.
He just acts
by cutting and pushing
those sacred positioned trees
of your fertile cover.

But on my way
to visit you
I hear the voice
of a canal's water,
telling me
the snow and rain fathers
are now forming
new spring pathways
that will wash away
and gently heal
those harsh teeth marks.

My western wind friend
who always forms

Silvester J. Brito is a member of the English faculty at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

a mystic tunnel
for me to run in
says the purple sagebrush
is going to engulf
and artfully decay
that barbed wire fence
which now imprisons you.

When I return
in resurrection summer
I will lie free
in your sandy loam
and be again
that fourth figure friend.