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THE VOICE

"first there is the word
the word is the *song*"

song gives birth to
the story and dance
as the dance steps
the story speaks

the cold mountain water
that quenches the deep thirst
drums my fire
drums my medicine pouch

free as the bear
and tall as redwoods
throb my blood roots
when spirits ride high

in chipped and tattered
weavings of a willow basket
the voice of an ancient age
dreaming of breath

William Oandasan