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## Guilt

Margaret H. Brooks

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# Guilt

by Margaret H. Brooks

...and sometimes I wish the rains would come  
and swell the creeks and stir the mud  
from their hard, dry banks and upset  
the weak trees, which would ride,  
root over branch, with the current

...and without concern for havoc  
I would plunge into the roiling water  
and save a stranger  
    ...for it is only a stranger  
    a mother can save...

and when I, with murky water dripping  
from my arms and running down my cheeks,  
bore the child to his father,  
I would see in his eyes  
something akin to forgiveness  
but more like the understanding  
of a man with his own roots  
    to remember...

