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Mug House

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Mug House

TIMELY OFFERINGS

Before they leave ancestral Pueblos
two baskets neatly stack beneath a large
inverted bowl shaped like a helmet. In
the bottom basket a cache of coarse ground
corn, in the upper a smaller pile of
finely ground corn as fine as pastry flour,
surrounded by ceramic ladles, nest
within each other. Then torch the kiva.
Each of many groups spread across the arc
from Chimney Rock to Sleeping Ute Mountain
do this and move on, many offerings
time this Colorado ground we walk on.

(inspired by Craig Childs' *House of Rain*)

MUG HOUSE

A distant rumble of thunder,
we look to our water jars,
we are ready

For the rain to jet from the pour-off
through the notch at the top of the rimrock
south of our dwelling alcove

Into the cistern our men have built
at the base of the cliff,
now dry and waiting

Twenty families
to drink from mugs we have fashioned
out of the earth

To cook what we have grown
on the mesa above and terraces below
the corn, beans and squash

Water the turkeys we keep
for meat and feather blankets,
adobe water for building our

Sacred kivas, storage and living places.
Springs and seeps to our north and south
such a long hard walk with the heavy water jars

We would gladly make,
but no trickle issues from the lake
at the center of the earth

We hear only the rumble of thunder.

MIGHTY BLUE WATERS

From Tahoe to Pyramid Lake
the Truckee River wants to run
its full course

Blessing all the creatures water touches
mighty small Cui-ui
rising from the brilliant blue

Pyramid blue lake
mighty swimming Lahontan
cutthroat trout

Rising from the brilliant blue
Pyramid blue lake
Native American Paiutes

Settling around depending upon
the land and the waters
all other immigrants

Settling along depending upon
the land and the running waters
of the falling blue Truckee

Who can read better through the trees?
so no one loses forever
their right to participate in community

Look to the rivers
look to the lakes
look seven generations ahead

Make the best decisions you can
for all the great and small fish
who depend on the mighty blue waters.