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Traveling through a Braided Channel

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TRAVELING THROUGH A BRAIDED CHANNEL

Bring together water birds and judges
 have them settle into Jackson Hole
 in the great WYO

For the purpose of understanding
 how the West's habitat backbone
 transfigured by the jagged Tetons
 is formed of adjoining watersheds

Call to order voices of community
 you will hear—
 do you hear?
 strings, chords, synchronicity—

Every tributary has a source
 makes a contribution
 travels through a braided channel
 no island can be without surrounding waters
 shifting its shaping potential.

The Divided West
 a series of islands
 composes the mainland West
 west of the 100th Meridian

We the citizens of the West
 a unique part
 of a unique world
 of a unique universe.

THE BLANK PAGE

Line your colors up
 then begin—
 paper rises up to meet
 your reflections—
 let blend the bolds of
 your conception

Watercourses
 will always bend you to directions
 never intended.