"Invocation to the Mad River"

Betsy Hughes

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BETSY HUGHES

Invocation to the Mad River

I summon your Shawnee spirit:
Hear me, Hathennithiipi,
Inspire me with your genius, Mad muse!

Let me fish in your fertile streams,
Permit me to meditate on your sacred banks,
Allow me to absorb your ancient wisdom.

May I sense your presence in your exhalation of strange and surreal mist,
May you surrender your supernatural stones, upturn the fossil faces
So that I may conjure your demons and divinities and interpret these runes.

Toss me into your turmoil and tumult,
Churn me in your turning, crazy currents,
Immerse me in your fantasies and insane imaginings.

Move me by your mighty madness
Wash my words in your worlds of waters,
Destroy me and create me anew.

I drown in the depths of your fierce floods,
I feel your forever flux and rock with its rhythms,
I am uplifted by your liquid lyrics.

Now I meet the mouth of the Great Miami in creative confluence.
Take me! I float! I flow!
The Mad River runs through me!