

## **A Cypress Tree Remembers**

Twists itself up to find  
the same shattered sunlight  
prisms through the overcast canopy.  
Learns to run its roots above  
the subsiding soil, still plying  
the earth for the richest loam.  
Recalls recruiting dense, red rivulets  
that ran from its thick middling limb  
on the day that the white men  
brought the accused from town.  
They claimed its middle branch  
as their own.  
Tested it with the full pull-up weight  
of a grown, hooded man,  
made an oath,  
and chose to use baling wire  
instead of rope.