Search For A Common Language

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All rivers are highways to the mind. That this one, Pecos, place of water, was dry most of the year was no obstacle to the dreams it could hold, pathway that leads from wherever one wishes not to be. The crows, the rabbits, snakes and mockingbirds become audience as the fantasies of boyhood play in theaters of tree and brush, wind tugging at the hair, eyes halfclosed.

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We are what we come to by the River. I having known mostly deserts cling to any memory of water: its glint a beacon no green valleys can dim. Always my eye goes straight to the water, no matter where I am. It is one of the marks of a desert person to be obsessed by water.

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In the silence that comes internally, the rustling of other animals is distant assurance, the light, shadow mingling as worlds try to meet, hover on peripheries, geographies of momentary agreement, all holding to what seems safe, possible. A watersnake raises his head, watches the shore. Boy, he watches watersnake while crow, he fixes them both with his glassy black eye and who’s to say who watches them all?