**Gathering Wild Leeks in the Yellow Dog Floodplain**

Diane Raven

ivory tusks stand firm

cloistered by darkness

sheathed and gleaming

under dusty shafts of sunlight

with a gentle pull

they give themselves

like terrestrial squid

then a pungent release

an offering of tobacco

speckle the broad green leaves

a collision of odors

mingle on warm columns of air

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