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Plume

For years
it may be locked
in the matrix
of silt and sand
like a photo-
graphic image
still and
untransported
absorbed
and adsorbed
then
the introduction
of gradient
to unsaturated
soils
percolation
and it awakens
unfurling
like a frond
a carpet unrolling
itself
remote
underground
this beautiful
movement
fanning
between interstices
feathering
void to void
describes
the dark earth
the layering
of permeable
and impermeable
soils

it is out
of our hands
this 50 year old
mistake
this poison
yes it is moving
to the river yes
it migrates
between grains
down to
saturated sediment
manifestly down
and when
it descends
as far as it can
it will swim
ride droplets
like swanboats
float
spread
diffuse
distend
trailing its
delicate
paisley scarf
and like
anything
with a destiny
a flock of birds
sperm
breath
it will move
downstream
to the river
yes the river
will take it in