

# Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest

By B. H. Fairchild

In his fifth year the son, deep in the backseat  
of his father's Ford and the *mysterium*  
of time, holds time in memory with words,  
*night, this night*, on the way to a stalled rig south  
of Kiowa Creek where the plains wind stacks  
the skeletons of weeds on barbed-wire fences  
and rattles the battered DeKalb sign to make  
the child think of time in its passing, of death.

Cattle stare at flat-bed haulers gunning clumps  
of black smoke and lugging damaged drill pipe  
up the gullied, mud-hollowed road. *Road, this*  
*road*. Roustabouts shouting from the crow's nest  
float like Ascension angels on a ring of lights.  
Chokecherries gouge the purpled sky, cloud-  
swags running the moon under, and starlight  
rains across the Ford's blue hood. *Blue, this blue*.

Later, where black flies haunt the mud tank,  
the boy walks along the pipe rack dragging  
a stick across the hollow ends to make a kind  
of music, and the creek throbs with frog songs,  
locusts, the rasp of tree limbs blown and scattered.  
The great horse people, his father, these sounds,  
these shapes saved from time's dark creek as the car  
moves across the moving earth: *world, this world*.

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