

## let our river pass

even though there are no more fish  
I will hold on to my grandpa's canoe  
its *taúba* benches preserve  
the curve of my learning in his lap  
of how to read the rivers  
the smell of *tucunaré*  
drying on the clothes-line in our backyard  
and mum's peels of laughter  
discovering my first love of summer

that world sustains the roots  
of my hope  
that the murder of *river-sources*  
in the name of green progress  
will open your *nut-brown* eyes  
encourage you to pick-up the *propeller*  
and cross the tocanins, again  
at sunset, with me  
to defend our amazon

1. **taúba** is the toughest amazonian wood
2. **tucunaré** is an amazonian fish now threatened with extinction
3. in the portuguese, **nascentes** is understood as life-sources of the river
4. 'nut-brown' in the portuguese also carries the meaning of the **castanha** tree ('brazil nut') from the amazonian region. All of these forests have now been felled.
5. propeller (an outboard, simple motorized propeller).

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(*inspired by many conversations*)  
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