

### On the Back of a Cow

Night's woman chases the churning silver flashes  
 in the river made by Running Cow's legs  
 Whips at the beast with her jade trimmed dress  
 Running cow makes its fat body move only when  
 Night's woman angrily shines a flashlight  
 & Running cow grinds its feet to opposite riverbank

She's losing the right to ride the animal  
 has trouble fighting gravity on its back  
 (I remember when it was considered a rarity to see my mother have  
 to climb back after a fall Mother wandered down the railroad track  
 Never worried about cow's hair on her gown & father told me:  
 'Follow  
 your mother Take care of her when she's old help her to keep  
 riding that cow')

I follow Night's woman over logging trails  
 carefully watch details in road that show  
 where she wants to go & the amount she's fallen off  
 Of all the relatives she doesn't like I'm the favorite

Night's woman drops off again unfit to even stand  
 but Running Cow suddenly props her up with flat forehead  
 No death no rest for her while he can still move  
 & Running Cow pants for help with grassy breath

I unwind rope in front of my mother  
 Running Cow nods his blunt face agreeing  
 as I turn back to retrace my route  
 a happy cigarette burns in the woman's mouth  
 & she's heading south tied to a cow

*Tamas V. Dobozy*