

Hydroreality: My List of Water Words Grows

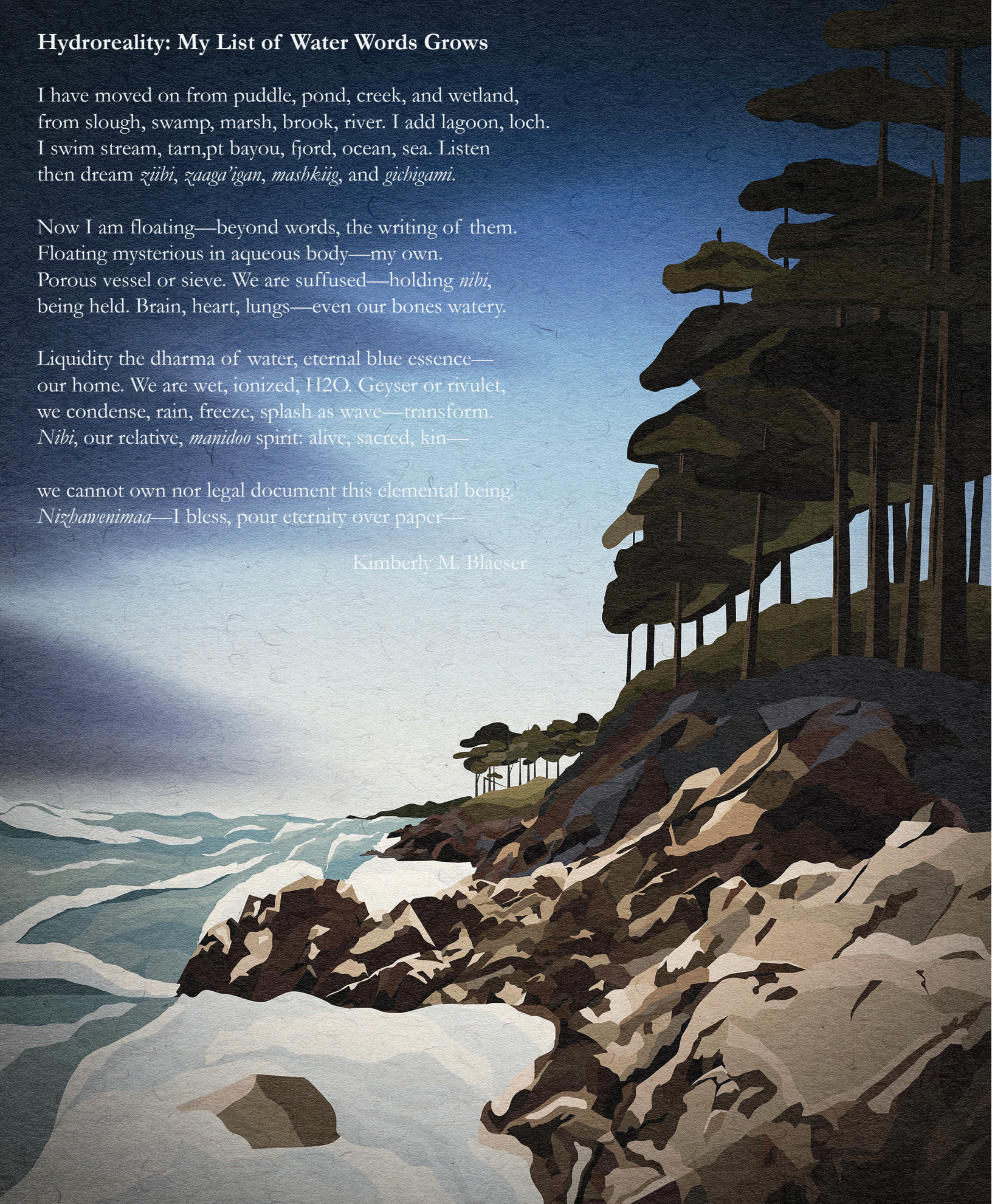
I have moved on from puddle, pond, creek, and wetland,
from slough, swamp, marsh, brook, river. I add lagoon, loch.
I swim stream, tarn, pt bayou, fjord, ocean, sea. Listen
then dream *zibi*, *zaaga'igan*, *mashkiig*, and *gichigami*.

Now I am floating—beyond words, the writing of them.
Floating mysterious in aqueous body—my own.
Porous vessel or sieve. We are suffused—holding *nibi*,
being held. Brain, heart, lungs—even our bones watery.

Liquidity the dharma of water, eternal blue essence—
our home. We are wet, ionized, H₂O. Geyser or rivulet,
we condense, rain, freeze, splash as wave—transform.
Nibi, our relative, *manidoo* spirit: alive, sacred, kin—

we cannot own nor legal document this elemental being.
Nizhauenimaa—I bless, pour eternity over paper—

Kimberly M. Blaeser



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Preserving the Yellow Dog Watershed in its
most natural state for the use of the public,
now, and for the benefit of future generations.