

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 *zjibii*, *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 *Nizhawenimaa*—I bless, pour eternity over paper—

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