

## The Licking River

*(or The steady-state of human history)*

There's a loop of water out in the middle West;

came about due to the flatness of the land,  
the Moon and her pull,  
and the spin of the World.

From twenty thousand feet the Licking River flickered,  
a ribbon of silver between the clouds,  
making its way North; separating Newport from Covington,  
before sliding into the mighty O-hi-O.

She, in her turn, slips lazily West, and then swings to the South  
before surrendering to the even mightier Mississippi.  
Now the corpuscles of the Licking are being swept down  
the book-hinge spine of America.

But before joining the Mississippi, at around the 38th parallel  
(Bluegrass, Bourbon, Cave Run Lake - source of the Licking -  
and, as it happens, the border between North & South Korea),  
some bright spark had dug a channel.

Took the river wa-ay back East.

And after many miles it slides back into the Licking,  
just beyond Polkville and Mooresferry Road.

Thus the river flows - into itself,

erasing history as it goes...

through the constant action of unlearning.