



ECOCENE

CAPPADOCIA JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES



Volume 7/Issue 1/June 2026

Storying Ecocenes



The River and Gravity

David Tagnani

Gonzaga University, USA

dtagnani@hotmail.com

ORCID: 0000-0001-6746-8247

Tagnani, David. 2026. "The River and Gravity." *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities* 7, no. 1 (June): 20–21. <https://doi.org/10.46863/ecocene.148>.

Poem/ Received: 28.11.2025 /Accepted: 21.02.2026

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.



The River and Gravity

by David Tagnani



About the Author

David Tagnani lives with his wife and sons in Spokane, Washington where he teaches literature and writing at Gonzaga University, USA.

The River and Gravity

David Tagnani

In the opulence of springmelt
the river bulges in abundance
as besotted backwater eddies
swirl out of the onward incessence
into an inward focused path
a serene and saintly acceptance
of the lay of the land

When the prosperity of spring
sinks to the survival of summer
the pools recede back to the current
Driven by the violence of the heavenly fire
and drawn by the lateness of the season
they slip the vortex of their own placidity
and run to fill an emptiness elsewhere
forever forward
and downward

By fall the river crawls
through a maze of boulders and ways
braiding over the broken basalt
the great river revealing
a web of raveling waters
Each slender silver rivulet
a path to inexorable union
the way
to sublimation in the sea

What weird will
drives this great and fated urge
for the vast formlessness beyond?
We might name it gravity
but a deep unknowing persists
The river is not a symbol
but a real and living thing that
like all things
longs to be loose
in some lost home
it can scarcely imagine