



John P. Kristofco

## Geology

it's all about tectonics,  
volcanic columns,  
magma building at the core,  
though slow enough to let us walk erect  
to churn inside, heat, and cool,  
find a level place for some,  
always on the slope with others,  
feel along the surface  
that now and then reminds us of the quiet lie,  
simple, like the ignorance of skin above  
the loss that takes away an inch or two  
until we hobble with our walker down the floor  
of pin oak that once welcomed hawk and owl;

the Alleghenies soften still,  
the route of the Mississippi shifts,  
and the Colorado sculpts its way  
through Arizona to the fault line

pressing hard  
beneath the Gulf of California

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John P. Kristofco has published poetry in such publications as *Illya's Honey*, *Bitterroot*, *The Cape Rock*, *Cimarron Review*, *The Aurorean*, and *California Quarterly*. He has published two chapbooks and has been nominated five times for a Pushcart Prize.

Image: Mississippi River, from Mississippi History Now (website).