



AUTONYM

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I

My name is a Portuguese river
that legions dared not cross.

My sign is a Water symbol
that stings with arachnid tail.

Born on the large Carib *isla*,

I've lived elsewhere at sea.

The water that has possessed me
flows inexorably through veins,
boldly sculpting contours
to shape the passage rite,
cutting chasms, mountains,
plains, in inner regions where
the definition of my self is made.

My name is a turbulent river
and my sign is bred on Water.

I need to be as Water is
for spirit to be whole in me.

II

I have been designated
from my birth . . .

genetically defined
assigned identity
designed and molded
to a pattern of the time
taught to do and don't
to look beyond

until the self
imperatives have had their way
with this life's brief

a case in point
is this fey stance
a signature of ends

it is impossible to say
"I am" and be
when there is grief to cross
and names are left to be discharged