

yazoo-mississippi delta

mychael zulauf

when the river

the river

when the river
more landslide than

more mausoleum than

when the river
second-lines up the levee
i think of my family

more ruins than

more obligation than

the river
walks moonward

the river dreams

and i think of
the near-decade i spent
talking to the shadow
of my brother's name

zulauf

more regret than

more *thought i would kill*
myself here than

and the river

when the river

and the long drive
out to Norco

and the emptiness
and the engine idling
against the night

