

## MEANDER

A world of masks and separation  
Cancel culture, divided nation.  
Lead me where escape is found  
Along the trails of shaded ground  
Around Palm Lake and by the river.  
What weight of daily stress, I gamble,  
Can bear relief from River Ramble?  
Mesquite and willow overlook  
The path I follow, looking up  
To see a kinglet, a flash of vermillion,  
A Gray Hawk soaring, a migrant singing.  
The snow from cottonwoods descending  
As Spring declares a new beginning.  
Nature cures and healing flows  
As waxwings feed on mistletoe and  
birdsong, like a lullaby, fills the bright  
and cloudless sky.  
Yes, this oasis in the desert, panacea,  
Place of comfort, keeps me centered,  
brings me solace,  
As I meander.

George Shoop

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