



Fall 1965

Lafayette County, Mississippi, July, 1965

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Pat Sullivan

LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, JULY, 1965

This earth is dappled with summer
Blanched from spring's passions
Of cerise and green.
Dun and olive, beige and pale lavender
Are the fields now
Laying on earth of blood iron red.
Panting in rich animal heat,
Tired from spring's teeming and tumultuous
 birth,
The earth lies brooding.
She accepts now the presence of the violence
 she bore.
Musky and furtive, sensuous and fertile
Awaiting visitation with her own seed.

The sumac stands by streams of black water
Red nipples, teeming
Pregnant and proud.
Stooped green, the pale cotton squats heavy
Bowed away from the sun.
The cypress is old but the pine is trans-
planted.
The forest is thick with them both now.

The turtle dove threads her way through stones
Awry at road's edge,
While in a field not far distant, the pale
horse stands
And chews the living grass.

A tension pervasive
By all the still waters
Stirs the red dust in fitful whirlwinds.
An energy quickens a dream almost dying
Exhausted by clawing its way from the womb.
Light from an ancient sun assaults its eyes,
The wind through ancient trees chill its soul.
But the new seed has already born fruit and
that fruit will reseed an ancient soil.
An old sun may glare upon it but an old earth
will nurture it.
And orioles and blackbirds will nest in its
branches.