

I STILL EAT ALL OF MY MEALS WITH A MUSSEL SHELL

Shaunna Oteka McCovey, Yurok and Karuk

Creation stories

thespiritbeings

have long been disputed

emergedfrom

by theories of

theground

evolution and

atKenek

strait crossings.

Because our rivers

halfbreedshave

were once filled

agodthat is

with gold

neitherIndian

our women were violated

orwhite

in the worst imaginable way.

Only a few

prayersgo

still know

unheardwhen

the formula that

notspokenin

will bring the salmon

ournativetongues

up the river.

If you cannot see

Istilleat

between the lines

allofmy meals

then your collected facts

witha

will never constitute

musselshell

knowledge.