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Faded Mountain

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A faded mountain at the edge
of a threadbare field.
Smoke and dust trudging
the last rungs of a sky.

And now a narrow dirt road
that twists between
snatches of shivering trees
and snatches of shadow.

Then a gasping river,
and cattle and goats and children
running across an empty yard,
yelling into the wind.

And fields again. Dry
and brittle as rust.
The sky filling loudly
the way any plastic bucket does.