

FRED MARCHANT

Etymos

a seam down through
strata of red rock ganglia of meaning
nerves exposed
the trail worn soft by mules and dotted
with shit the pebbles
treacherous switchbacks sharp and steep glare
worse than burns first
on this cheek then that as you start to dream
the river below shaded
by big-tooth aspens water from the glacier
your shoulders ache
to float in the currents traces of word-feeling
that drift and brush
against your legs cold mouths open
as if to nibble or to kiss