

## **James Keelaghan**

### **"River Run"**

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River of blue cut through the valley  
Swept past the willows and the sandy bar  
Ran so swift, locked in my mem'ry  
But the way things were is not the way things are  
We used to swim in the crook of its arm  
In the summer heat who could be blamed  
Avoided the rapids as best as we could  
Never thought that that stream could be tamed  
Long ago I gave up that riverside valley  
Traded coulees for towers of steel  
Abandoned the vistas and valleys of childhood  
For the things that they told me were real  
No more would I run with the speed of a colt  
Cross the gravel down by water side  
To race with the twig I threw in at the bend  
Couldn't beat it though god knows I tried  
Now the river's not running as fast as it did  
There's a dam there restricting the flow  
And I don't run either as fast as I could  
Guess that river and I have grown old  
Now it's strange in returning to places of youth  
It seems your memory has made a mistake  
Cause the place that once scared you with white water  
running  
Has been turned by decree to a lake  
Makes me think about how too I smoothed out the  
wrinkles  
Made the waters as calm as you please  
Makes me think about how that river and I  
Were both happier when we ran free  
Now the river's not running as fast as it did  
There's a dam there restricting the flow  
And I don't run either as fast as I could  
Guess that river and I have grown old  
Guess that river and I have grown old

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