

Juan Carlos Galeano (translated by James Kimbrell and Rebecca Morgan)

Those who believed ...

Those who believed the river was a tug rope were wrong.

The river is a thin vein on the earth's face.

"A delicate string that could break and put out the stars,"
the universe tells those who play with the river.

The river is a string all the animals and trees cling to.

If they pull too hard, the river could burst.

It could burst and wash our faces in water and blood.

Note to poem: this poem was cited by Pope Francis in his Exhortation "Dear Amazonia", written in 2019 by His Holiness in solidarity for the land and peoples of Amazonia.

Juan Carlos Galeano

Los que creyeron ...

Los que creyeron que el río era un lazo para jugar se equivocaron.

El río es una vena delgadita en la cara de la tierra.

"Una cuerda delicada que podría reventarse y apagar las estrellas",
les dice el universo a los que juegan con el río.

El río es una cuerda de donde se agarran los animales y los árboles.

Si lo jalan muy duro, el río podría reventarse.

Podría reventarse y lavarnos la cara con el agua y con la sangre.

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