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## Skin

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# Skin

*Timothy O'Brien*

It peels its skin off.  
Against the pavement.  
Against the bricks.

Its skin slides off.  
In the river.  
Against the current.

(The skin of our Mothers)  
(The skin that birthed us)  
(The skin that shields us)

Thick skin.  
Skin that can withstand the scalding winds.  
Skin that encases you as a tank.

slip on silk soft skin  
skin bathed in milk  
skin fresh borne

The skin that peels off.  
Against the pavement.  
Against the bricks.

The skin that slides off.  
In the river.  
Against the current.