Hope Travels Below Sea Level

By Teresa Berger | Volume 2.1 Fall 2015

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I have learned

in the deep South

that hope travels underground.

Gullah Islands

reach into an ocean

that carried slave trading ships

and is forever scarred

by the memory of the agony

below deck.

Did hope travel westwards at all in the Middle Passage?

And where,

if not below deck?

Underground,

the slaves seeking freedom would later say.

But

where is underground

in the ocean

traversed by slave ships

if not in the deepest depths of the tortured human soul?

Hope does travel underground,

and below deck,

and deeper than the deepest sea,

yet its whispered promise is always the same:

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

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