REFLECTIONS

Mermaid During War Ife, Nigeria

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Beneath the bridge, a headless
woman floats. Soldiers lean out
to her, calling her name—
Yemoja. Her throat sings mud up
from the river. The soldiers
without memory, without knowledge
fall in. Their bodies drift close
to her, hands reaching out.
They touch her skin, press
cheeks to her ribcage, if only to
learn the rise and fall of breath.

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