

## SLIM MAN CANYON

*early summer Navajo Nation, 1972 for John*

700 years ago

people were living here  
water was running gently  
and the sun was warm

on pumpkin flowers.

It was 700 years ago

deep in this canyon  
with sandstone rising high above

The rock the silence tall sky and flowing water  
sunshine through cottonwood leaves  
the willow smell in the wind

700 years.

The rhythm

the horses feet moving strong through

white deep sand.

Where I come from is like this

the warmth, the fragrance, the silence.

Blue sky and rainclouds in the distance

we ride together

past cliffs with stories and songs  
painted on rock.

700 years ago.