LIKE MANY GREAT RIVERS,

the Mississippi is no longer in any hurry to get to the sea (why bother? It's seen it all before); cauterized by its own weight, the river drags its huge memory-belly along like a weary earth-colored snake. It is too laden with history, with images. What it longs for more than anything, in fact, is to rest. After all this time it can get to the Gulf of Mexico in its sleep.

Geoff Dyer, "Alec Soth: Riverrun"