

**AT THE END OF THE SWORD**

my grandmother's neck, my  
botany & altars, my kink, my  
africanness, my father's hair, my  
gospel, my wilderness & name, my  
herbs, my sage & tea, my spice, my  
good memory, my resistance, my  
codes & distrust, my loose jaw, my  
grandmother's grandmother's tongue, my  
grandfather's grandfather's burros, my  
land, my flesh hands, my spirits, my  
poems, my place, my ceremonies, my  
balance, my reason, my kin, my kin, my sins.