

I Forgot Who Told Me This

but they said
you can live your life one or some of two ways

you can lie in a hot tub and
gaze down the glistening plane of your body
 into a chrome face plate
 with a screw in its center

and as with some jar in Tennessee
 all that is your body
 revolves around this navel

Or

you can live your life as the Piney Eddy Parker

the last living thing that he did as he burned in a crown fire
 was to kneel
 and embrace
 a burning pine

This is what they said
live your life in water or fire

or do neither
or do both.

(After John McPhee)