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T. ZACHARY COTLER

NOTES TOWARD AN AESTHETICIZATION OF
POLITICS

Three boys on a fjord beach pull at a house-high mound of cargo crates and diseased birch, whole trees, half trees, pieces. Three small boys pull together at a crate lid in the middle bottom of the mound. I guess I sense the mound will not collapse or drop a tree, as I remain up the slope in a field of blown blood-brown barley-like grasses and purple and butter-white flowers the size of the tip of a child's tongue.

Three sons of strangers drag a crate lid from the mound. One mounts it in the shallows. Two attempt to push him out to sea. Magellan dies on Mactan. Cook on Hawai'i, felled by a shark-toothed club. The boy aboard has a gnarled stick of birch for an oar. Any change in the wind and one can smell the ammoniac-acetic odor of the mound from where I sit and write. One boy floats one man's length out to sea. I'm getting up. Let no one say poetry saves no lives.

I remain long after a guardian in green bikini in the arctic wind and sun of nightless days arrives to take the boys away. The raft became then very beautiful, light-shot, floating alone, trapdoor in the sea. Certain religions allow no figurativity, only geometry.