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The measure of a man's worth (after MLK and the content of his character) [poem]

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Abstract

1. Small seeds tucked away, water stored, some dogs, a few rats look into the faces of relatives you will not see again for several hundred years sit quietly at night surrounded by constellations and a dizzying stretch of liquid the most humbling metaphor and word trick of them all: ocean-going vessels, blood vessels; genealogy and water mix in our part of the world

Poem: The measure of a man's worth

whenever we remember the day the Crown morally defeated itself
we play a trick on time,
become our own ancestors and our own descendents:
we are those little kids,
we hold their poi.

3. Smallest

who consented to our belittlement?
we're shrink-wrapped, vacuum-packed, disassembled, sold for parts
you forget to measure, don't think to check, underestimate:

our ocean-going navigating vessels
will not fit
the whare you've built to house them