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
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

2. Smaller

our poi make the sound of the horses which were met by children

our poi make
the sound of
the horses
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by children
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the horses
which were met
by children
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