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Like Everything Else

Adrian Oktenerg

Like everything else our language is particular to us Outsiders cannot learn it it's gibberish to them Yesterday I heard a woman say "This war has destroyed my life" Why do we always say "this war"? To acknowledge the wars that came before? To remember future wars? To say this war is to acknowledge that one the last one and the one yet to come When we say "this war" we already envision another But which war is the last war? Will there ever be one? That woman who spoke she was a Serb caught outside Banja Luka in a Croatian artillery barrage her ten-year-old killed she and her nineteen-year-old seriously wounded Severed arteries in her leg and arm If she recovers what will she recover for? This war begets another and another an old testament book The new testament love and charity and forgiveness the lilies of the fields that one hasn't been written

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