

Tanzania 1982

Nduto Lake

Wildebeest bones and skulls
crowd the beach
as if thrown up from
the creosote colored water.

A one-legged stilt stands motionless
in the foam

Beyond, a white and grey flamingo
wades warily before three Marabou storks
whose kind have tasted flamingo
but now await what the lions leave.

Three white Land Rovers approach,
in slanting sunlight
below a soft clay sky.
They twist and creep
between ruined acacias
cast about by a slow storm
of elephants.

Telephotos zoom toward stoic Marabous.
Macro-lenses examine hard dried carcasses.
The Nubian vultures are commented upon
and the Land Rovers depart.

Lions haunt the beach in twilight.
Rushing from beneath yellow fever trees,
they drive wildebeest into the lake
and suffocate them.



Salvadora persica during drought