

# RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

*Poetry*

Predator

by Christopher Hirschmann Brandt



ARTWORK BY ERIC J. GARCIA, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PINATA, DE-MIL-I-TA-RISE DISSIDENTERS PORTFOLIO VIA JUSTSEEDS

## Predator

These are my wings,  
I bought them with my taxes.

This is my gyroscope,  
I bought it with my taxes.

This is my remote-  
controlled guidance system,  
I bought it with my taxes.

These are my eyes,  
super-high-resolution lenses,  
I bought them with my taxes.

This is my forty-inch monitor  
and this is the air-conditioned  
trailer that houses it  
forty-five miles north of Las Vegas,  
I bought them all with my taxes.

This is my pilot  
staring at my monitor  
in the air-conditioned trailer  
forty-five miles north of Las Vegas.  
I bought him with my taxes.

This is my high-definition  
image of six humans, taken  
from several thousand feet over  
the Hindu Kush and transmitted  
to Nevada in less than a second,  
I bought it with my taxes.

This is my Hellfire missile  
which I bought with my taxes,  
tucked under the wing of my  
Predator drone, which I bought  
with my taxes, and which drops and ignites  
at the touch of a finger by the pilot I bought with  
my taxes.

This is my explosion,  
I bought it with my taxes.

These are my six corpses,  
two of them are children,  
I bought them with my taxes.  
(Sorry about the kids, they  
were not supposed to be there.)

And these are my bribes,  
my renditions, my tortures  
my Bagram, my Guantánamo Bays  
my temporizing lawyers  
my executive decisions,  
I bought them all with my taxes.



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