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Zach Savich

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ZACH SAVICH

On a Pose of Virgil's

Near its peak, the mountain
requires nearly no
effort to climb. There is no sky behind the flags,
barges of pretty silt. Some wrestlers
oil themselves to prevent a grip, others rub grit to their skin
to help it. In the cartoon,
Orpheus puts glasses
on the back
of his head and walks in reverse. The pastor's white
collar is a foam neck brace. I am sorry to hear,
this morning, as I can't see
the mug top through
the pouring steam, that there is nothing new
in philosophy: I meant to tell you
a story but cannot keep myself interested
long enough to describe
the ski lifts exactly. I can never remember jokes, but there were
twenty-
four flavors of syrup for
the soft-serve, as though an entire day
of ice cream were possible, and a man near the summit
holding his palms fast to
the thistles, waiting
for dew to come so he could wash.