

~~scribble~~
 imagining
 the
 terrorists

RICHARD KOSTELANETZ

Unimaginable

Deposited mostly
 In attractive Florida beach towns
 Favored by retirees,
 Where they could have defected
 In favor of honest jobs
 And comfortable lives,
 If not lifetime rewards
 From American intelligence agencies,
 These provocateurs instead chose
 Immediate death
 And eternal ignominy
 As mass murderers.
 Fools,
 Most of us would agree,
 They certainly were.
 Not twenty-year-olds,
 Like most suicide bombers,
 These were older gents,
 Some of them educated;
 A few reportedly had families
 How it is possible
 That so many
 So superficially fortunate
 Could be so psychopathic?
 Behind them,
 How could any manipulator(s)
 Trust so many

To be so crazy?
 (This is stuff for novelists.)
 Nonetheless,
 Nineteen kamikazes
 Plus backup folk
 Do not a critique of America make
 not six decades ago during WWII
 And not now.