i thought the moral war was over. sitting with oedipus the self identifying criminal tantalus with betrayal and theft within self pride sisyphus rock bondage for violating the sacred and just one secret agamemnon with ancestral disgraces and a shortcut to start his return home medea tossing the confetti of her brothers into the sea and helpless burier of living children and the others the others crossing the dividing line between brutal frailty and sublime brutality. done with it. i am done with establishing blame and living with conflicted emotions could we peacefully retire the hungers the thirsts the passions and enjoy a walk in the full light outside the labyrinth with the wax candles to a candlelight dinner made possible by icarus.

at least that was what all of us hoped.
i should have known
what was coming next
when i saw buddha shifting
what remained of his weight on the bench
while rubbing the dividing line
drawn in the quiet sand
away with his shoeless toes.
i knew when i heard him say just
one more time for old times sake
the best of the good times
will still be bad.

the moral war. wf.h. 2023