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Electra and Orestes

Their father’s gravestone, dumbly glittering, 
beckons each of them alone 
to this mountain of goats 
where the skeletons of infants lie scattered like 
droppings bleached by the mineral sky. 

How death can litter minds. 

He is here because he carries 
the sword of their murdered father; 
she because of her womb, 
enigma of their murderous mother, 
marking her keeper of the living and the entombed. 

The sun blinds them to the other like history. 

When she sees a lock of golden hair 
on the quartz of their father’s grave 
she lifts it to her own; 
when she finds a footprint, bruised soil 
in the rock’s lee, she steps into it. 

Thus brother and sister softly discover themselves. 

They touch and whisper, 
insects in a cave outside the light, 
before the day recalls them like sin 
to defend the stoic gods of man 
and destroy their bestial mother.