

and then

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I have set before you life and death . . . choose life . . .

(Deut. 30:19)

there are
those
flush
with life
before the worm
turns flesh
to rot
breathing
thinking
who bury
themselves
in earth
you are
and to earth
you shall return
tired of being
and its elegy
who defying
life stubborn
sat to ground
in ashes
clothing rend
seven days
seven nights
that he
and he alone
mourn his

death