

Retribution

by Gary Hardaway

If you believed, it would be easy
to populate Hell. So many figures,

mythical, historical, contemporary,
have earned a place there,

which doesn't exist.
The vain and clueless

Agamemnon would have his circle.
His cuckold, chickenshit brother,

Menalaeus, his special room.
Hitler would surely have a place

near the fanning wings of Satan
adjacent to Custer and and Pol Pot.

There could be a Reagan circle
with a Maggie Thatcher suite.

Republican members
of House and Senate

could wander that ring, forever
thirsting for the milk of human kindness

they spilled, un-given, across
Monsanto cornfields tended by Con Agra.

Easy awards of endless penance--
anger management a la Alighieri—

in a vivid but imaginary justice.

