

IN THE GRIP  
OF MINOS



# IN THE GRIP OF MINOS

CONFESSIONAL DISCOURSE

IN DANTE, CORNEILLE,

AND RACINE



MATTHEW SENIOR

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TO  
JENNIFER

Minos juge aux enfers tous les pâles humains.  
Ah! combien frémira son ombre épouvantée,  
Lorsqu'il verra sa fille à ses yeux présentée,  
Contrainte d'avouer tant de forfaits divers,  
Et des crimes peut-être inconnus aux enfers!

Racine, *Phèdre*

L'homme, en Occident, est devenu une bête d'aveu. De là sans doute une métamorphose dans la littérature: d'un plaisir de raconter et d'entendre, qui était centré sur le récit héroïque ou merveilleux des "épreuves" de bravoure ou de sainteté, on est passé à une littérature ordonnée à la tâche infinie de faire lever du fond de soi-même, entre les mots, une vérité que la forme même de l'aveu fait miroiter comme l'inaccessible.

Michel Foucault

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