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Mandala Deity

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Mandala Deity

Ian Haight

How strange this Buddha
drawn to keep and prepare you
for the next world.
Brush strokes
thick, assured—thin
hairs on its head.
Cat-like eyes, irises
looking left
the bamboo walking cane
crooked at the top
pocked and ridged.
Shoulder, overly-pronounced, as a mountain.
Pug-nosed, clichéd garbage man
under the moustache
a line of lip
with a slight
downward
curve.
A hair's edge fraying
defines
your presence—or the blotched

pupils.

This Buddha's aura's gray.

Five years have passed
and the sponge of this painting
bloats.

The time has come
for this art to burn
to let the ashes
and atoms
go where they will.