

“The Future Anterior of Blood”

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Sovereignty defined as the power of life and death over the subject necessarily comes into focus with the death penalty: hence the relation between the two last sets of seminars Derrida delivered in the years 1999-2003. My paper will examine a particular function of the death penalty as it relates, via sovereignty, to cruelty, and in particular to blood, whose *visibilization* or *invisibilization* continues to haunt every execution from those practiced by ISIL to those practiced in the US. It will seek to respond to the hypothesis advanced by Derrida, in the second year of the Death Penalty seminars, according to which an essential or originary relation between blood and human culture in general is being called into question; according to which one might maintain that “there will have been blood.”