

**davidbrucehaiku:**

**Dante's *Inferno***

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**By David Bruce**



<https://pixabay.com/en/dante-sculpture-statue-art-marble-3072141/>

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## **Canto 1: THE DARK WOOD OF ERROR**



<https://pixabay.com/en/hands-trunk-creepy-zombies-forest-984032/>

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**far from virtue's path  
dark wood in a dark valley  
cannot reach the light**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: On Good Friday, April 8, 1300, 35-year-old Dante finds himself in the dark wood of error. He can see light high up, but he cannot reach it. He has**

**wandered from the path of righteousness, and he is in  
danger of going to Hell when he dies.**

## **Canto 1: CAN'T REACH LIGHT**



<https://pixabay.com/en/tree-wood-nature-plant-animal-2600482/>

\*\*\*

**Dante can't reach light**

**Leopard, lion, wolf stop him**

**Some symbols of sin**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In Canto 1, Dante tries to reach the light, but three animals stop him. The leopard is a manifestation of the sins of incontinence, the lion is a manifestation of the sins of violence, and the she-wolf is a manifestation of the sins of fraud.**

## **Canto 1: VIRGIL, DANTE'S GUIDE**



<https://pixabay.com/en/statue-louvre-paris-aeneas-534340/>

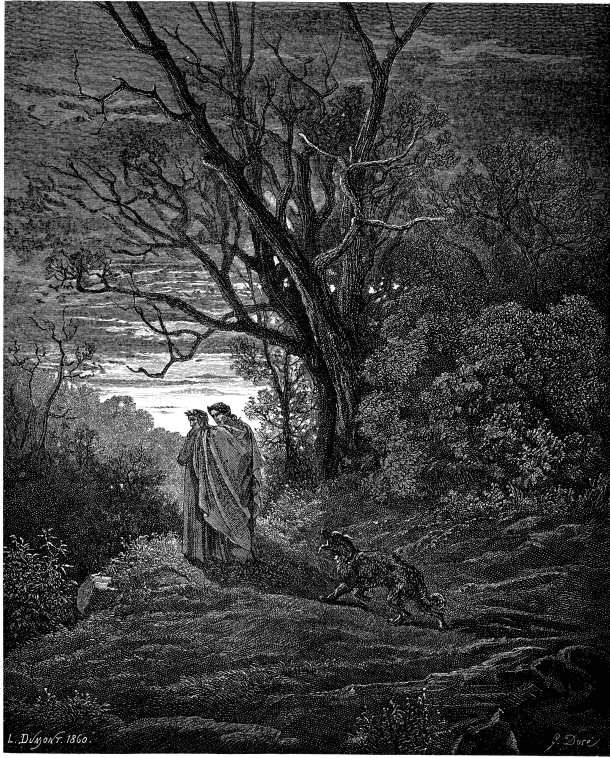
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**Virgil: Dante's guide**  
**His Aeneid taught Dante**  
**Poetic style**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The photo shows a scene from Book 2 of Virgil's *Aeneid*: Aeneas carrying his aged father out of the burning city of Troy.**

## **Canto 2: DANTE GETS HELP**



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5226221>

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**Mary helps Dante**

**Acts to get him a good guide**

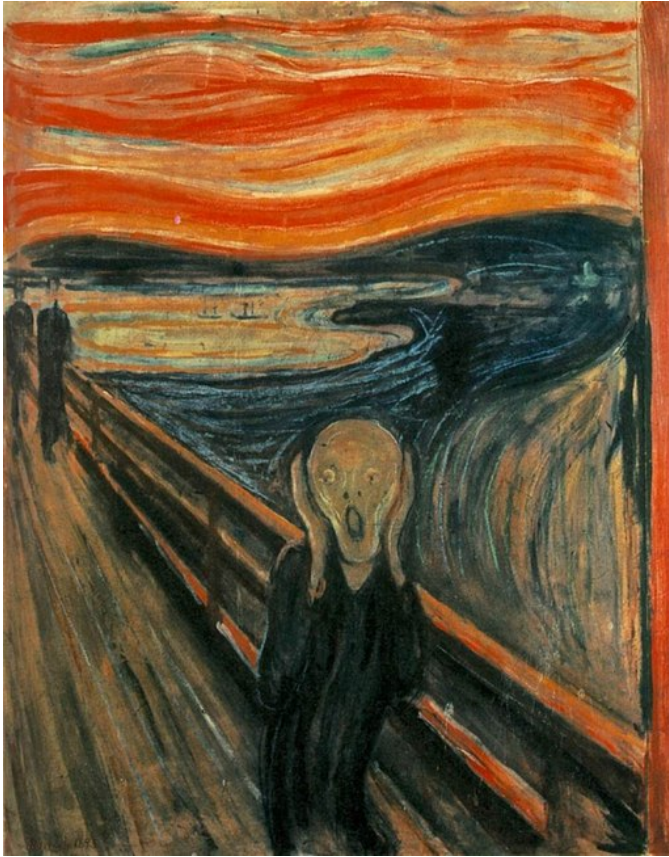
**Virgil knows the way**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The mother of Jesus wants to help Dante, who has strayed from the path of virtue. She asks Saint**

**Lucia to help him. Knowing Dante loved the deceased Beatrice, Saint Lucia asks her to go to Virgil and ask him to help Dante. She does, and he agrees.**

## **Canto 2: DANTE HESITATES**



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_Scream.j  
pg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Scream.jpg)

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**No tourist's journey**

**Travel through a land of screams**

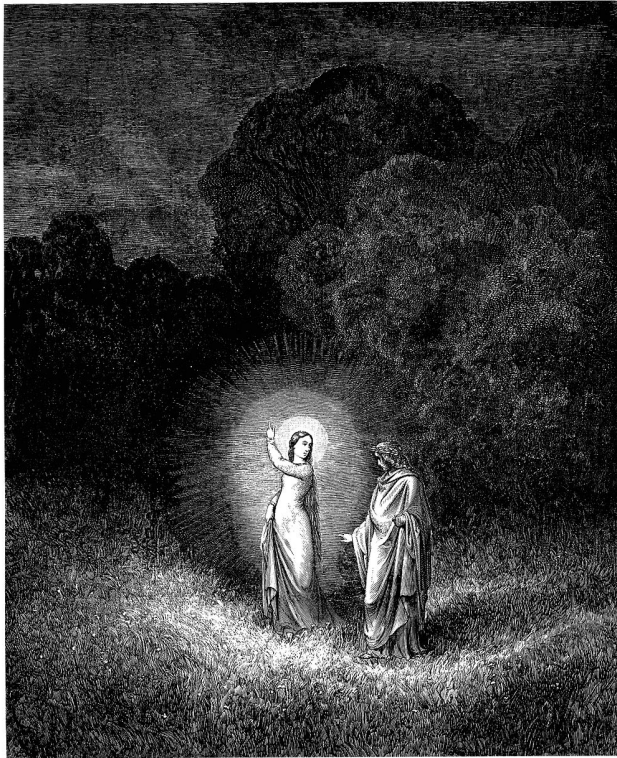
**Dante's second thoughts**

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**NOTE: Dante is frightened by the thought of traveling through the Inferno. He confides his fear to Virgil, who reassures him.**

## **Canto 2: BEATRICE AND VIRGIL**



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

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**No fear of Limbo**

**Beatrice knows Paradise**

**Fears no Inferno**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Beatrice asks Virgil to be Dante's guide through the Inferno and Purgatory. Virgil accepts the responsibility.**

## **Canto 2: THREE HEAVENLY LADIES**



<https://pixabay.com/en/sky-silhouette-shadow-contour-239493/>

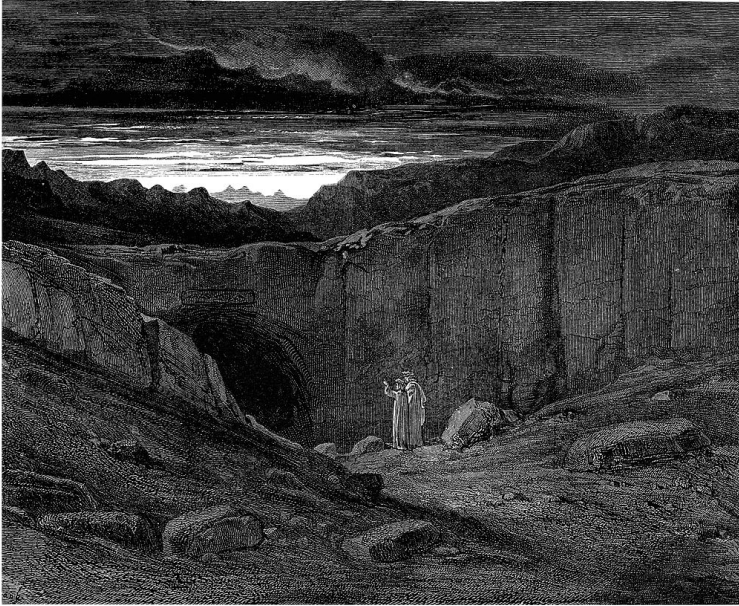
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**Dante's divine help:  
Mary, Lucia, and his  
Late love Beatrice**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Virgil tells Dante that he can travel safely through the Inferno because three heavenly ladies are looking out for him: Mary, Lucia, and Beatrice.**

### **Canto 3: THE GATE OF HELL**



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gustave\\_Doré\\_-\\_Dante\\_Alighieri\\_-\\_Inferno\\_-\\_Plate\\_8\\_\(Canto\\_III\\_-\\_Abandon\\_all\\_hope\\_who\\_enter\\_here\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gustave_Doré_-_Dante_Alighieri_-_Inferno_-_Plate_8_(Canto_III_-_Abandon_all_hope_who_enter_here).jpg)

\*\*\*

**“Abandon all hope”**

**Entrance sign to Inferno**

**These words are not cruel**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: God wrote these words. The sinners get exactly what they deserve; they do not deserve hope.**

## **Canto 3: CHOOSE EITHER GOOD OR EVIL**



**<https://pixabay.com/en/mannequins-wig-hair-blond-1079925/>**

**\*\*\***

**The Uncommitted**

**The Inferno doesn't want them**

**Neither does Heaven**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: In Dante's INFERNO, those who did not make a choice between good or evil are rejected by both Hell and Heaven. Because they never chose to follow a banner in life, they are condemned to forever run after a blank banner in death.**

## Canto 3: CHARON THE FERRYMAN



p. 14.

And, lo! toward us in a bark  
Comes on an old man, hoary white with eld,  
Crying, "Woe to you, wicked spirits!"

*Canto III., Lines 76-78.*

**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

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**Charon, ferryman,  
Doesn't want to take Dante  
Across the river**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: This is one place where Dante needs Virgil as a guide. Charon has had trouble with living souls before; for example, Hercules came and stole the three-headed guard-dog Cerberus. Virgil tells Charon that omnipotent power has sent Dante to the Inferno and therefore Charon MUST ferry him across the river.**



### **Canto 3: CROSSING THE ACHERON**



**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

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<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ADVinfernoDoomedSoulsCrossAcheron.jpg>

**Eager to sin then**

**Eager to be punished now**

**Yet they dread future**

\*\*\*

**These unrepentant sinners were eager to sin while they were alive. Now God makes them eager to cross the Acheron River so they can be judged and punished. They are eager for punishment and yet they dread it.**

## **Canto 4: FIRST CIRCLE OF HELL: LIMBO**



<https://pixabay.com/en/users/ambroo-72571/>

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**No screams, only sighs**

**Here: separation from God**

**For eternity**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The first circle of the Inferno is Limbo. No tortures are here, just eternal separation from God. Many of those in Limbo are virtuous pagans who lived good lives but did not worship God correctly.**

## **Canto 4: GREAT POETS IN LIMBO**



<https://pixabay.com/en/sculpture-bronze-figure-homer-poet-2293801/>

\*\*\*

**Great poets live here**

**Homer, Virgil, and Ovid**

**They walk on water**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Other great poets in Limbo include Horace and Lucan. By the way, Limbo must have a library because these poets greet Dante as an equal. The bronze sculpture of Homer is at the Albert Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany. And yes, in the INFERNO, these great poets walk on water.**

## **Canto 4: MUSLIMS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/hands-compassion-help-old-care-699486/>

\*\*\*

**Virtuous people  
In Limbo include Muslims  
God's not prejudiced**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: One of the pillars of Islam is *zakat* (almsgiving).**

## Canto 5: MINOS



Engraver: Gustave Doré (1832 – 1883)

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5228117>

\*\*\*

He's the perfect judge

Knows which circle the sinner

Must be punished in

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Minos wraps his tail around himself. The number of times his tail is wrapped around himself is the number of the circle the sinner will be punished in.**

## **Canto 5: CONTRAPASSO**



<https://pixabay.com/en/justitia-goddess-goddess-of-justice-2597016/>

\*\*\*

**Divine punishment**

**Fit punishment for the sin**

**God's retribution**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In Dante's INFERNO, the punishment either resembles the sin or contrasts with it. The lustful could**

**not control themselves, and now they are blown around  
by a wind that they cannot control.**



**Canto 5: “OH, LIVING CREATURE”**



**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

\*\*\*

**“Oh, living creature”**

**Creatures aren’t human; they lack**

**Good of intellect**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Francesca da Rimini greets Dante with “Oh, living creature,” but Dante is a human being. As a human being, he has the good of intellect with which he can tell right from wrong. Francesca gave up the good of intellect in order to commit adultery with Paolo.**

**Canto 5: FRANCESCA DA RIMINI**



<https://pixabay.com/en/young-woman-beauty-sensual-2747334/>

\*\*\*

**“It is not my fault!”**

**Francesca da Rimini**

**Blames everyone else**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The sinners in the INFERNO often tell self-serving stories. Often, they don't take responsibility for their actions. Francesca tells Dante the Pilgrim only part of her story, leaving out the parts that show her guilt.**

## **Canto 5: BLAME THE BOOK**



<https://pixabay.com/en/king-artus-metal-sculpture-bronze-1507392/>

\*\*\*

**She is innocent.**

**So she says. She blames the book.**

**The book made her sin.**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The book is *Le Morte d'Arthur*, in which a civilization is destroyed because Queen Guinevere had an affair with Sir Lancelot. Read correctly, the book is a warning against adultery. The statue depicts King Arthur, Queen Guinevere's husband. It is located on top of Tintagel cliffs in Cornwall, England.**

## **Canto 6: INCONTINENCE**



<https://pixabay.com/en/gluttony-chocolates-delicious-candy-2088384/>

\*\*\*

**Sin of no control**

**Desires control the sinners**

**Lust, gluttony, more**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Circles 2-5 punish the incontinent sinners.**

**Circle 2: Lustful. Circle 3: Gluttonous.**

**Circle 4: Misers and Spendthrifts.**

**Circle 5: Angry and Sullen.**

## Canto 6: CERBERUS



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Three-headed guard dog**

**Guards and bites the gluttonous**

**This glutton eats mud**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Virgil scoops up handfuls of mud and throws them down Cerberus' three throats. After the heavy meal, Cerberus falls asleep, and Virgil and Dante can safely pass him.**



## **Canto 6: GLUTTONS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/warthog-mud-bathing-close-cute-2818953/>

\*\*\*

**Like pigs, sleep in mud  
Gluttons mostly in stupor  
Too full, can't function**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In this circle, Dante meets a glutton called  
CIACCO. The name means FIG.**

## Canto 6: SINS AND WORSE SINS



<https://pixabay.com/en/hello-name-tag-sticker-paper-1502386/>

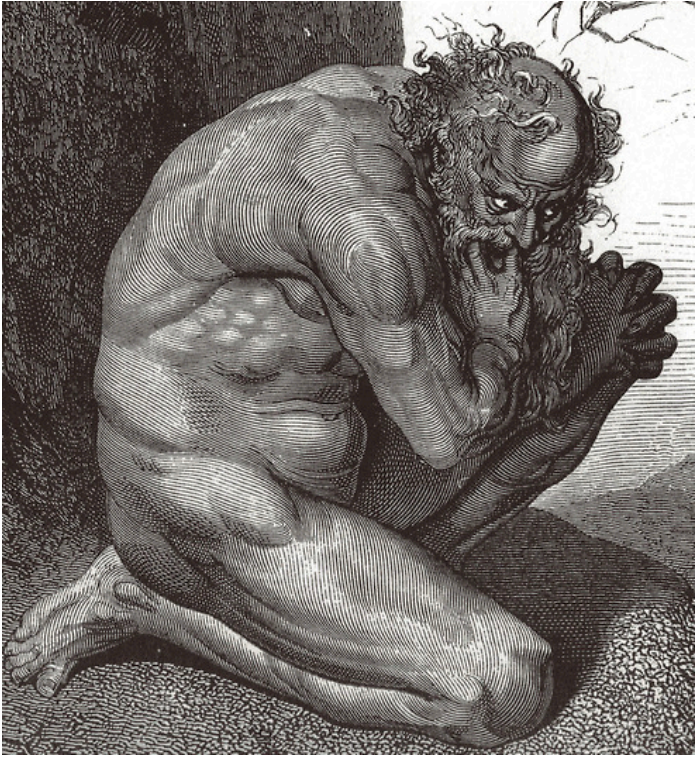
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**The lower you go  
In the Inferno's circles  
The worse the sin is**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Sinners in the first few circles want to be remembered in the Land of the Living, but sinners in the lower circles have committed such horrible sins that they prefer to be forgotten.**

## **Canto 7: PLUTUS**



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

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**Plutus: god of wealth**

**Gold, silver, diamonds, rubies**

**Underground riches**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Pluto and Plutus are sometimes thought to be the same god. Auguste Doré called the figure Pluto. Plutus is the god of wealth, and Pluto is the god of the**

**underworld. Since much wealth comes from  
underground, this confusion is fitting.**

## **Canto 7: WASTERS AND HOARDERS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/money-dollars-success-business-1428594/>

\*\*\*

**Loved it or blew it  
Wasted it or hoarded it  
They misused money**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Money must be used properly. Buy the things you need rather than hoarding. If you don't blow your money, you will probably have money to do good works.**



## Canto 7: ETERNAL CONFLICT



\*\*\*

**Clash heavy weights**

**Together. Some shout, “Why hoard?”**

**Others shout, “Why waste?”**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Engraver Gustave Doré cleverly made the heavy weights full moneybags. The wasters and misers push heavy rolling weights around the fourth circle and when they meet, they violently clash the heavy weights together.**

## **Canto 7: TIGHT FISTS AND BALD HEADS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/hand-finger-nail-wrist-thumb-1701952/>

\*\*\*

**Misers have tight fists  
Wasters are bald because they  
Spent all their hair**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Except for these distinguishing features, the misers and wasters are difficult to distinguish because their relationship with money made them lead undistinguished lives.**



## **Canto 7: SLOTHFUL AND SULLEN**



<https://pixabay.com/en/fog-moor-autumn-swamp-1886939/>

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**Slothful and sullen**

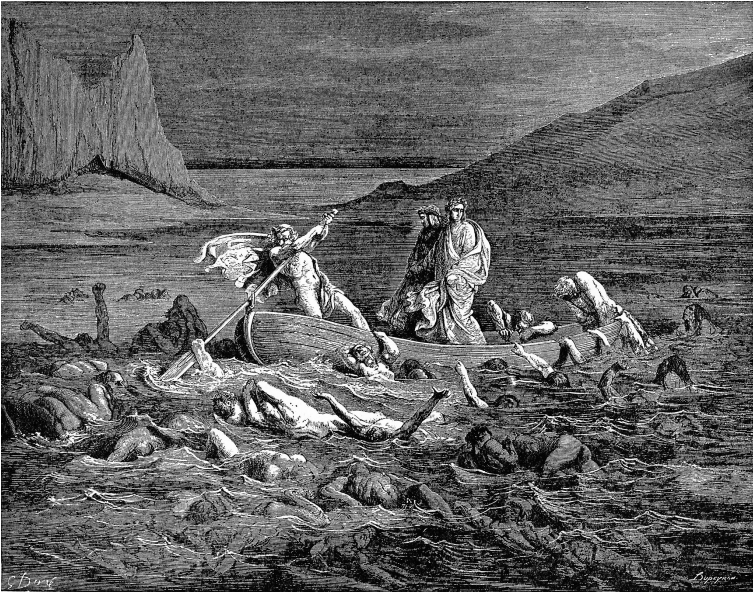
**Did not pursue good with zeal**

**Stayed lazy, sullen**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The slothful, sullen sinners are underwater in a marsh, revealing their presence only by the bubbles that rise to the water's surface.**

## **Canto 8: PHLEGYAS**



**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

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**Phlegyas' anger**

**Apollo raped his daughter**

**So he burned temple**

\*\*\*

**Gods are dangerous**

**Apollo killed Phlegyas**

**Phlegyas in Hell**

\*\*\*

**Phlegyas works now  
Ferries souls across the Styx  
To lower circles**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: The fifth circle punishes the angry as well the sullen and slothful. The angry are in the marshy River Styx, and they attack each other. This is the last circle devoted to punishing the sins of incontinence.**

**Canto 8: FILIPPO ARGENTI**



**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

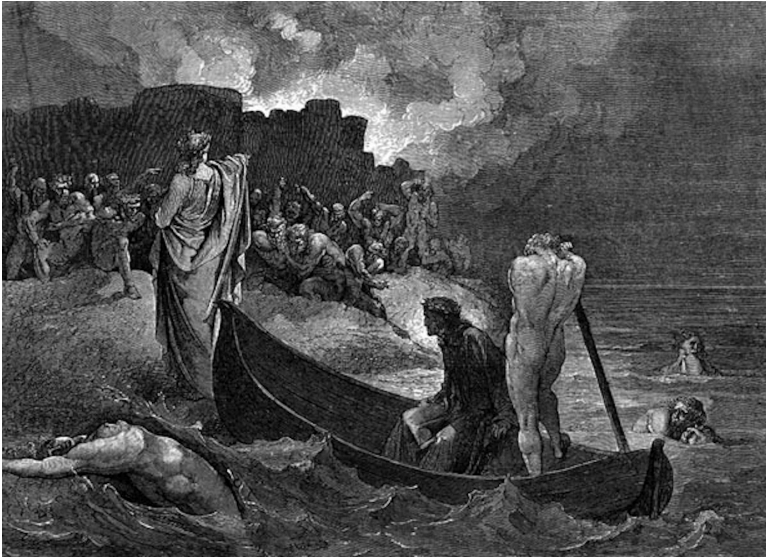
**\*\*\***

**For this angry man  
Dante is without pity  
Wants him punished more**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante is learning as he travels deeper into the Inferno. Previously, he pitied Francesca da Rimini and Ciaccio, but he has no pity for Filippo Argenti. Virgil approves of Dante's righteous anger.**

## **Canto 8: FALLEN ANGELS**



**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

\*\*\*

**Dis is a city  
where the fallen angels stay  
they hate God and good**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: After crossing the Styx, Dante and Virgil arrive on the shore where is the Hellish city of Dis. The fallen angels bar the gates of Dis so that Dante cannot enter, but Virgil tells Dante that Heavenly help is on the way.**

## **Canto 9: VIRGIL: A GOOD GUIDE**



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Parco\\_della\\_Grotta\\_di\\_Posillipo5\\_\(crop\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Parco_della_Grotta_di_Posillipo5_(crop).jpg)

\*\*\*

**Virgil: a good guide**

**A witch sent him to Hell's depths**

**Virgil knows the way**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante is afraid, but Virgil reassures him by stating that he knows the way they will travel because he has made that journey previously. Erichtho, a witch, sent him to the pit of Judas to retrieve a soul whom she wanted to question. The souls in Hell know the future.**



**Canto 9: THE FURIES AND MEDUSA**



Mark thou each dire Erynnis.  
*Canto IX., line 46.*

H

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Three bloody Furies**  
**They guard the City of Dis**  
**With Medusa's help**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The Furies and Medusa have snakes for hair. A living man who looks at Medusa will be turned to stone. The Furies punish children who murder their parents.**

## Canto 9: THE GOOD ANGEL



To the gate  
He came, and with his wand touch'd it, whereat  
Open without impediment it flew. *Canto IX., lines 87—89.*

**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

\*\*\*

**Damned souls see him, flee**

**The good angel is scornful**

**Who can resist God?**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The good angel walks on water and opens the gate of Dis to allow Dante and Virgil to enter. The Furies, Medusa, and the damned dare not oppose him because he is carrying out the will of God.**

## Canto 9: OPEN, FLAMING TOMBS



He answer thus return'd:  
"The arch-heretics are here, accompanied  
By every sect their followers."

*Canto IX., lines 124—126.*

**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

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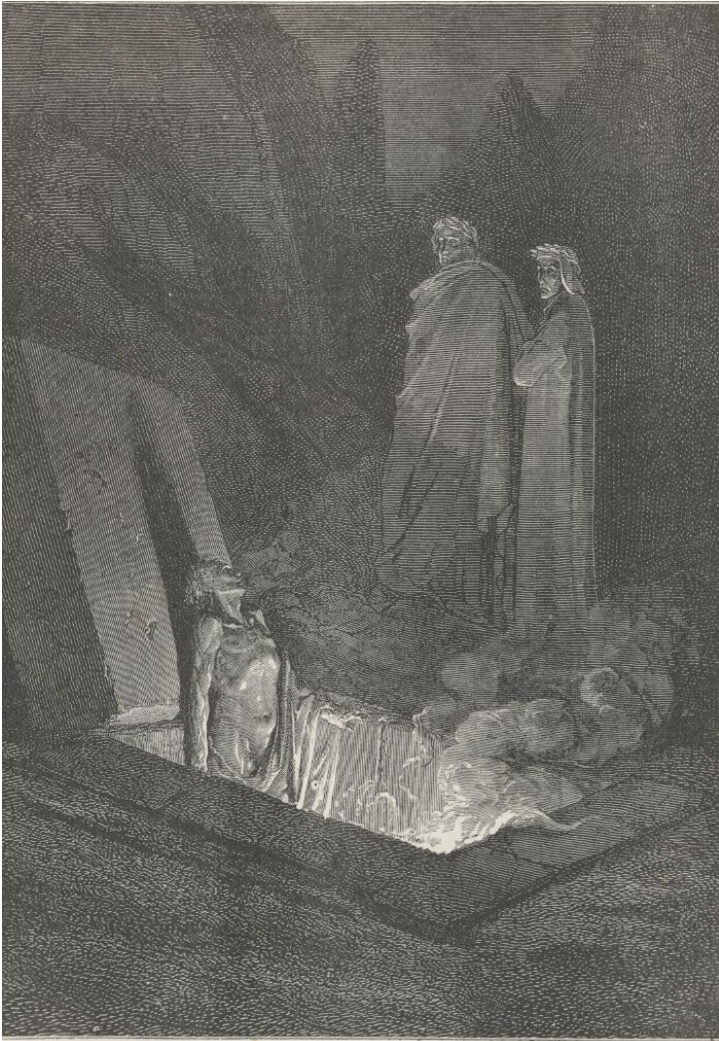
**Open, flaming tombs  
Heretics' homes forever  
Thought they were mortal**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: One heresy is not believing in immortality after death. These heretics believed that they would be in a tomb for eternity after death, and they will be in a tomb for eternity.**



## Canto 10: FARINATA



He, soon as there I stood at the tomb's foot,  
Eyed me a space; then in disdainful mood  
Address'd me: "Say what ancestors were thine."

*Canto X., lines 40-42.*

**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

\*\*\*

**Disdains tomb he's in  
Still overly proud in death  
Stands like a statue**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Farinata would like statues to be erected to him in the Land of the Living. He stands like a statue now, but he is half in the tomb and half out, and he looks somewhat silly. He wants to tower over Dante and Virgil, but of course he can't.**

## Canto 10: BAD FACTIONALISM



<https://pixabay.com/en/racism-intolerance-prejudice-2733840/>

\*\*\*

**Political hate**

**One side against the other**

**Hatred on both sides**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: A major theme of Dante's *Inferno* is bad factionalism. One political party takes over Florence and exiles the other side, and then the exiled political**



**party comes back, triumphs, and exiles the first political party. Factionalism need not be bad. Two political parties can differ on the issues, yet attempt to work together to make the city or the country great. Dante is a Guef, and Farinata is a Ghibelline. They are members of political parties that hate each other.**

## Canto 10: “WHERE IS MY SON?”



<https://pixabay.com/en/fire-flame-carbon-burn-hot-mood-2911041/>

\*\*\*

“Where is he? My son?”

“Why isn’t he here with you?”

“You are geniuses.”

\*\*\*

**NOTE:** Cavalcante de’ Cavalcanti recognizes Dante’s voice and pokes his head out of the burning tomb he is in. He looks for his son, a poet like Dante, and asks why he isn’t here with Dante because he assumes Dante is in the Inferno while still alive because he is a great poet.

Cavalcante believes his son is also a great poet and ought to be accompanying Dante. Here in the Inferno pride exists. But Dante is taking this trip through the Inferno not because he is a great poet but because he messed up his life so badly that three Heavenly ladies are trying to save his soul.

## Canto 10: FAULTY VISION



<https://pixabay.com/en/window-blinds-office-office-window-932644/>

\*\*\*

**Hell's faulty vision**

**Sinners know the future well**

**Don't know the present**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The sinners in the Inferno see the future, but they have no knowledge of present events in the Land of the Living until a new sinner arrives and tells them what is happening. But often, sinners hate each other and will not acknowledge another sinner's existence. Of course, even while still alive, the sinners had faulty vision when it came to God.**

## Canto 10: BAD PRIDE



<https://pixabay.com/en/autumn-yellow-leaves-earth-time-2785954/>

\*\*\*

**Pride: A deadly sin  
Farinata is still proud  
Look where it got him**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Farinata, a proud heretic, will spend eternity in a flaming tomb. Pride can be good; we ought to be**

**proud of doing good work. Sinful pride is making yourself the center of the universe and putting yourself first instead of such things as God and morality.**



\*\*\*

**NOTE:**

**Circle 2: Lust**

**Circle 3: Gluttony**

**Circle 4: Prodigal and Miserly**

**Circle 5: Anger**

## **Canto 11: CLASSIFICATION OF SINS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/handcuffs-caught-crime-sin-921290/>

\*\*\*

**Incontinence, Violence  
And Fraud are the pagan sins;  
Heresy: Christian**

\*\*\*

### **NOTES:**

- Circles 2-5: Incontinence**
- Circle 6: Heresy (A Christian sin)**
- Circle 7: Violence**
- Circle 8: Simple Fraud (no betrayal of a special trust)**
- Circle 9: Complex Fraud (betrayal of kin/family,  
government, guests/hosts, God)**



## CANTO 11: WORST SINS POSSIBLE



<https://pixabay.com/en/fear-woman-stop-1131143/>

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**Malice aforethought**

**Punished in deepest circles**

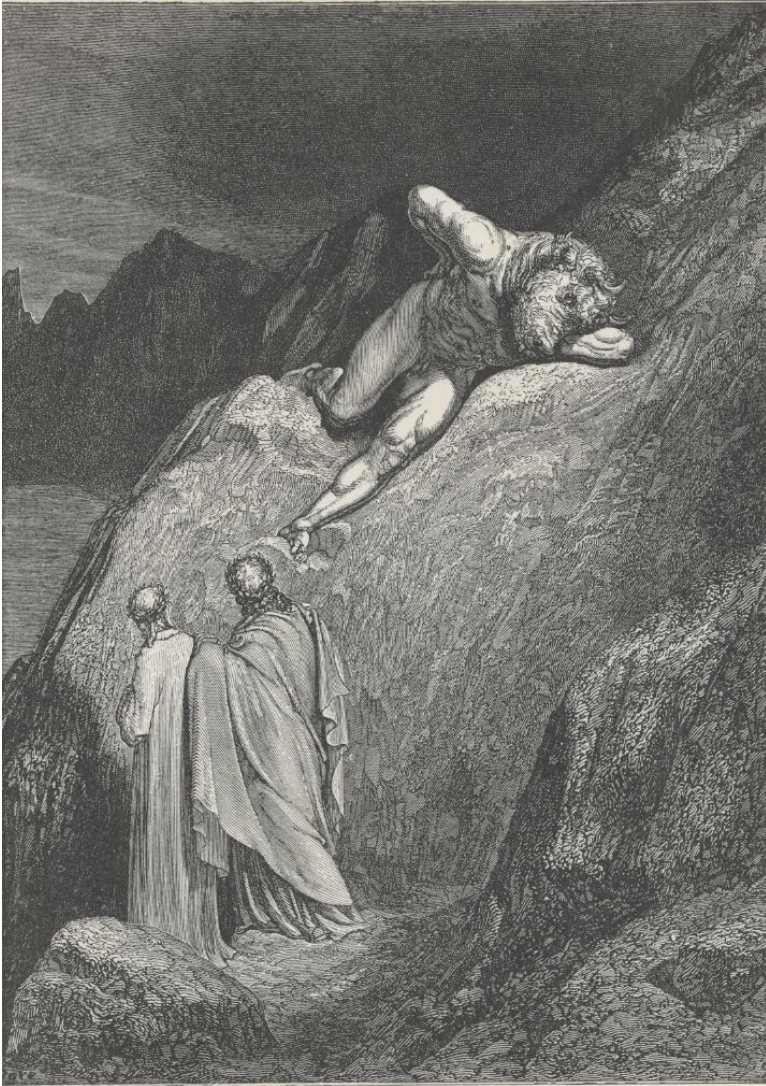
**Worst sins possible**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Incontinence is evil due to lack of self-control.**

**Violence can be and fraud is deliberately committed evil. Committing violence due to lack of self-control of anger is incontinence; deliberately committing violence is a much worse sin. Anger is punished in Circle 5; violence is punished in Circle 7.**

## Canto 12: THE MINOTAUR



And there  
At point of the disparted ridge lay stretch'd  
The infamy of Crete, detested brood  
Of the feign'd heifer.

*Canto XII., lines 11—14.*

**Engraver: August Doré**

\*\*\*

**Half-human, half-bull  
Minotaur feasted on the flesh  
Of Athens' tribute**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In the INFERNO, the guards of the damned are often from mythology. The Minotaur is the half-human, half-bull offspring of Pasiphaë, the wife of King Minos of Crete. With the help of Daedalus, who created the form of an artificial cow in which she crept, Pasiphaë mated with a bull. Athens sent seven youths and seven maidens as tribute to Crete periodically; the Minotaur devoured these young people. Eventually, Theseus of Athens killed the Minotaur with the help of Ariadne, King Minos' daughter. The Minotaur is angry at Theseus for killing him and is an appropriate guard for the violent.**

## Canto 12: HALF-ANIMAL, HALF-HUMAN GUARDS



Engraver: Auguste Doré

\*\*\*

Sin is bestial

When it comes to violence

Red in tooth and claw

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Circle 7 punishes the violent, and that kind of sin is bestial in nature. We think of humans as being better than animals, but humans at their worst are animals. The guardians of Circle 7 are half-animal, half-human: the half-bull, half-human Minotaur and the half-horse, half-human Centaurs.**



## Canto 12: RIVER OF BOILING BLOOD



We to those beasts, that rapid strode along,  
Drew near.

*Canto XII, lines 73, 74.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

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**Boiling-blood river**

**Violent sinners stand there**

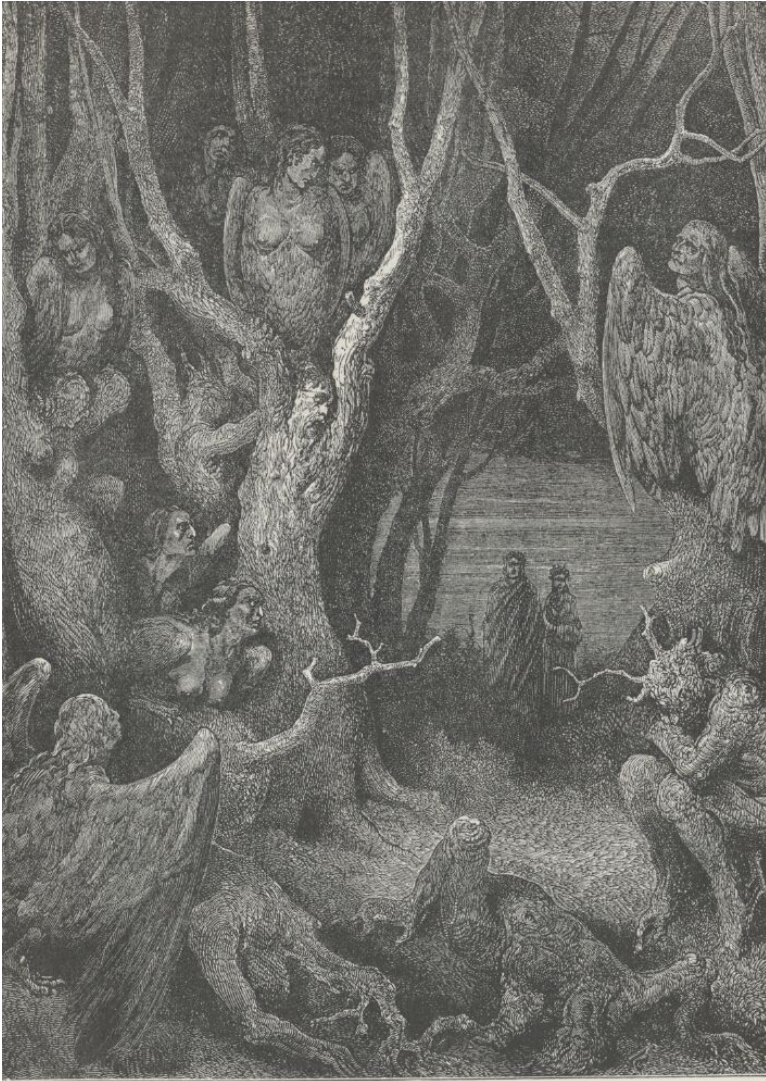
**Some up to eyelids**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Sinners who were physically violent against others stand in the river of boiling blood. Some are in boiling blood up to their eyelids, and some are in boiling blood up to their ankles. The more violent they were, the deeper in boiling blood they stand. The Centaurs are the guards here, and they shoot arrows at any**

**sinner**s who try to relieve their pain by rising out the boiling blood.

## CANTO 13: NO



Here the brute Harpies make their nest.  
*Canto XIII., line 11.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**No path and no fruit**

**No smooth branches, no green leaves**

**No sun and no life**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: The suicides said NO to life. By committing suicide, they committed violence against themselves.**



## Canto 13: GRUBBY SHRUBS



Engraver: Auguste Doré

\*\*\*

Wood of grubby shrubs

Each contains a suicide

Break a branch, blood flows

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The shrubs found here contain the souls of the suicides. Harpies — half-woman, half-bird monsters — break the shrubs' branches, and blood flows. The suicides rejected autonomy — freedom and independence to respond to the bad things in life and either endure them or make improvements — in life, and they have no autonomy in the Inferno.**

## Canto 13: EXILE



<https://pixabay.com/en/depression-mental-health-sadness-824998/>

\*\*\*

**Failure, loss, exile**

**Time to commit suicide?**

**Dante must say no**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: After his political party loses power, Dante will go into exile and he will be tempted to commit suicide, like Pier delle Vigne did. Dante must say no to suicide or he will end up in the Inferno like Pier delle Vigne did. Dante is traveling through the Inferno and is talking to damned souls in order to learn how to save his soul. This is one of the lessons he must learn.**

**Canto 13: PIER DELLE VIGNE (PETER OF THE  
VINES)**



<https://pixabay.com/en/suicide-despair-no-output-death-2910870/>

\*\*\*

**Loyal to this man:  
Holy Roman Emperor;  
Disloyal to God**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Pier delle Vigne blames Envy for his committing suicide. Envious people spread false rumors about him, which his employer, Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II, believed, although Pier was loyal to him. Pier was put in prison, where he committed suicide. By committing suicide, Pier was disloyal to his God.**

## Canto 13: VIOLENT PROFLIGATES



<https://pixabay.com/en/money-case-wealth-finance-market-163495/>

\*\*\*

**Many profligates**

**Violently waste their wealth**

**Then seek a quick death**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Many wealthy people violently waste their wealth, and then, rather than live in poverty, they seek a quick death. After violently wasting his wealth, Lano of Siena deliberately sought death in a 1287 battle; he could have escaped by retreating, but he stayed to fight so that he would die. Because his wasting of wealth was violent and because his death was a kind of suicide, he is punished among the suicides in Circle 7, which punishes**

**the violent. He keeps his human form, but dogs chase  
and attack and tear him to pieces.**

## Canto 14: BLASPHEMERS



Unceasing was the play of wretched hands,  
Now this, now that way glancing, to shake off  
The heat, still falling fresh.

*Canto XIV., lines 37—39.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**They should have loved God**

**Love of God should be fertile**

**They cursed God instead**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: This part of Circle 7 is a sandy desert on which flames continually fall, burning the unrepentant sinners and ensuring that nothing grows here. The blasphemers took something that ought to be fertile — love of God — and made it infertile by cursing God rather than loving God. Now they will spend eternity in an infertile desert. They lie on their backs and are burned both by the hot**

**sand and by the falling flames. Each time they open their mouths to curse God, flames fall into their mouths.**



## **Canto 14: GREEDY MONEYLENDERS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/euro-saving-coins-money-1785517/>

\*\*\*

**Made money fertile**

**The greedy moneylenders**

**They made a profit**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The greedy moneylenders took something that ought to be infertile and made it fertile. The Bible has rules about lending money, including when it is proper and when it is improper to lend money at interest.**

\*\*\*

**Exodus 22:25**

**King James Version (KJV)**

**25 If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury.**

\*\*\*



**Leviticus 25:35-37**

**King James Version (KJV)**

**35 And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee.**

**36 Take thou no usury of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee.**

**37 Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy victuals for increase.**

**\*\*\***

**Matthew 25:27**

**King James Version (KJV)**

**27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.**

## Canto 15: SODOMITES



<https://pixabay.com/en/desert-drought-dehydrated-clay-soil-279862/>

\*\*\*

**Sodomites: no kids**

**Sex supposed to be fertile**

**Made sex infertile**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The homosexuals took something fertile and made it infertile. No amount of sodomy will result in the birth of children.**

## **Canto 15: THE OLD MAN OF CRETE**



<https://pixabay.com/en/trickle-non-cloud-raindrops-2654887/>

\*\*\*

**The Old Man of Crete**

**Statue with a head of gold**

**Tears drip from the head**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The Old Man of Crete is a statue with a head of gold, arms, shoulders, and chest of silver, remaining torso of brass, and legs and one foot of iron. The remaining foot is made of baked clay. The tears that drip from the Old Man's head make up the streams and rivers and pools of the Inferno.**

## Canto 15: BRUNETTO LATINI



And are ye here?" "Ser Brunetto!  
Canto XV, lines 28, 29.

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Make book infertile?**

**Do so by writing for fame,**

**Not to tell the truth**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Brunetto Latini wrote for fame. Now he is a footnote in books about Dante. When Dante writes THE DIVINE COMEDY, he must tell the truth if he wishes his book to be fertile.**

## **Canto 15: WRITE THE TRUTH**



<https://pixabay.com/en/dante-florence-alighieri-tuscany-2199139/>

\*\*\*

**Dante wants to learn  
And so he speaks to sinners  
Learns what not to do**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Brunetto Latini is a homosexual, but Dante talks to him for a long time despite having no homosexual feelings. From Brunetto Latini, Dante can learn what not to do: Don't write out of a desire to be famous. Instead, write out of a desire to tell the truth. If Dante writes out of a desire to be famous and enjoy the wealthy life, no famous, rich people will appear in torment in THE INFERNO. As anyone who reads THE INFERNO knows, Dante puts popes, kings, and emperors in THE INFERNO. Because Dante told the truth, he became and remains famous.**

## Canto 15: SODOMITES



<https://pixabay.com/en/runners-male-sport-run-athlete-373099/>

\*\*\*

**Sodomites condemned  
To run without stopping in  
the burning desert**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Sodomites who stop running for even a moment  
must lie on the hot sand for a hundred years without  
being able to brush the falling flames away from their  
bodies.**



## Canto 16: THREE SODOMITES



<https://pixabay.com/en/fourth-of-july-4th-of-july-2454956/>

\*\*\*

**Dante meets three sinners**

**Respect-worthy sodomites**

**They were patriots**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The three sodomites are Guido Guerra, Tegghiaio Aldobrandi, and Jacopo Rusticucci. They were patriots who loved and cared about the city of Florence.**

## Canto 16: WATERFALL



<https://pixabay.com/en/niagara-cases-water-waterfall-218591/>

\*\*\*

**Sound of waterfall**

**Virgil throws down Dante's belt**

**It is a signal**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante's belt is a cord much like the Franciscans wore. By throwing Dante's belt into the abyss the waterfall is pouring into, Virgil is signaling a means of transportation to take them down into the next circle: Circle 8, which punishes simple fraud — fraud that is not committed against family, government, or God. Simple fraud is fraud committed against those to whom one does NOT have a special obligation of trust.**

**Complex fraud, which is punished in Circle 9, the deepest part of the Inferno, is committed against against those to whom one DOES have a special obligation of trust.**

## Canto 16: VIRGIL'S SPECIAL POWERS



<https://pixabay.com/en/statue-louvre-paris-aeneas-534340/>

\*\*\*

**Has enormous strength**  
**— Virgil has special powers —**  
**and knows Dante's thoughts**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Virgil also always knows what time it is and the location of planets and other Heavenly objects although it is always night in the Inferno. (The statue depicts a famous scene from Virgil's epic poem titled the *Aeneid*: Aeneas carrying his aged father out of the burning city of Troy.)**

## Canto 17: GERYON



New terror I conceived at the steep plunge.  
*Canto XVII., line 117.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

## **Fraudster Geryon**

**This monster makes the world stink**

**Seems honest; is not**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Geryon has the face of an honest man, but he has the tail of a stinging scorpion. This monster appears to be honest but wants to sting you with its tail. Con men and other fraudsters are like this.**

## **Canto 17: GREEDY MONEYLENDERS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/purse-purses-wallet-pay-shopping-232242/>

\*\*\*

**Greedy for money,  
Moneylenders did nothing  
Worthy of notice**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Because the greedy moneylenders used their talents only to acquire wealth, they accomplished nothing of lasting value while they were alive. Dante can recognize no greedy moneylenders in the INFERNO.**



## **Canto 17: FEARS TO FLY**



<https://pixabay.com/en/icarus-italy-forli-2453926/>

\*\*\*

**Dante fears to fly  
Remembers Phaëton's death  
And Icarus' fall**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Geryon flies Dante and Virgil down to Circle 8 of the Inferno. Dante is afraid despite Virgil's presence.**

**Phaëton drove his immortal father's Sun-chariot across the sky and so close to the Earth that Jupiter, King of the gods, killed him to keep the Earth from burning up. Icarus, the son of Daedalus, flew so close to the Sun that the wax of his artificial wings melted and the feathers of the wings fell off, plunging him into the sea, where he drowned.**

## Canto 18: MALEBOLGE



<https://pixabay.com/en/broken-bridge-adventure-danger-666180/>

\*\*\*

**The 10 Malebolge**

**These are 10 evil pockets**

**Punish simple fraud**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Circle 8 punishes those unrepentant sinners who committed simple fraud against those to whom they did not have a special obligation of being trustworthy. The malebolge are 10 evil pockets or evil ditches in which different types of sinners are punished. Bridges cross the evil ditches, but at least one bridge has been broken.**

**Ten kinds of sinners engage in simple fraud. They are punished in the 10 evil pockets:**

**One: Seducers and Panders,**

**Two: Flatterers,**

**Three: Simonists,**

**Four: Fortune-Tellers and Sorcerers,**

**Five: Grafters — those who give or accept bribes,**

**Six: Hypocrites,**

**Seven: Thieves,**

**Eight: Evil Deceivers/Those Who Misuse Great Gifts,**

**Nine: Schismatics: Those who caused divisions (in families and in religion), and**

**Ten: Falsifiers, including Counterfeiters.**

## Canto 18: HORNED DEVILS



Ah! how they made them bound at the first stripe!  
*Canto XVIII., line 38.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Horned devils whip hard**

**The panders and seducers**

**Who walk in this ditch**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: These are the first horned devils we see in the inferno. A pander is a pimp.**

**Canto 18: UNETHICAL SEX**



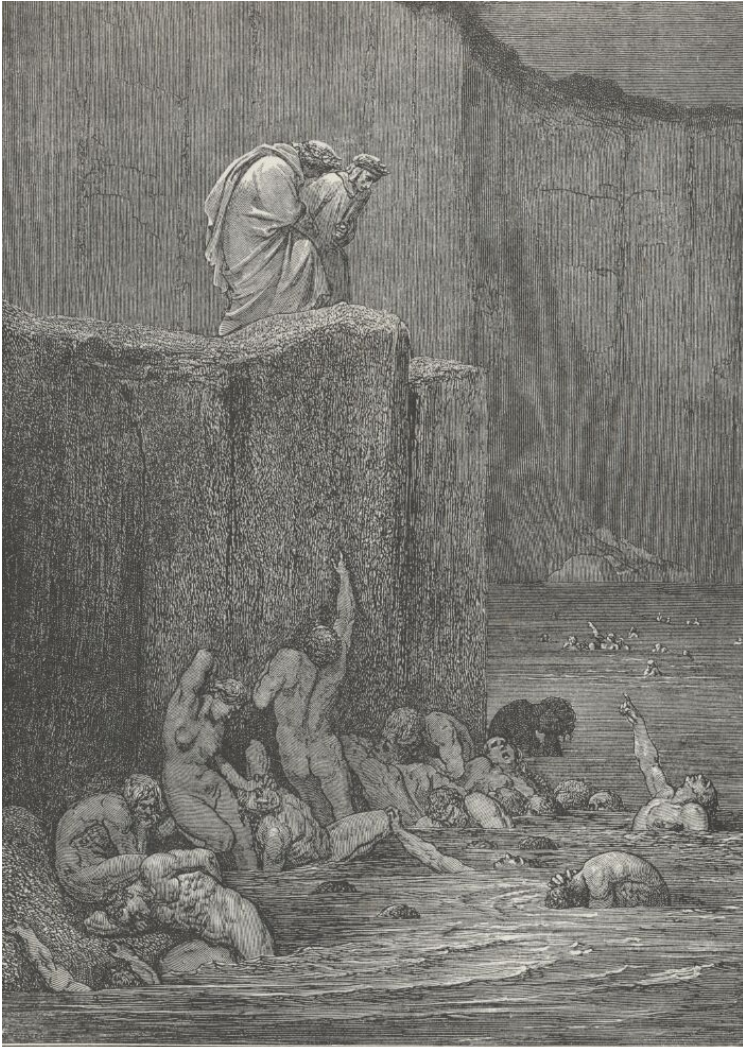
<https://pixabay.com/en/dark-dreadlocks-help-cry-2750378/>

\*\*\*

**unethical sex  
the panders and seducers  
punished in this ditch**



## Canto 18: FLATTERERS



"Why greedily thus bendest more on me,  
Than on these other filthy ones, thy ken?"  
*Canto XVIII., lines 116, 117.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*



**Shitty flatterers**  
**Mouths mouthed shitty flattery**  
**Now they live in shit**

## Canto 19: SIMONY



<https://pixabay.com/en/dresden-frauenkirche-germany-church-2460704/>

\*\*\*

**Some things can't be bought  
Church offices, gifts of spirit  
Simonists sell them**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Simony is the selling of church offices and spiritual gifts, but it is a sin to sell and buy such things. At times, the Catholic Church needs to be reformed, and one of those times is when simony is present.**

## Canto 19: EVIL DEED OR GOOD DEED?



<https://pixabay.com/en/church-window-church-window-2658741/>

\*\*\*

smash baptistery  
to do act of blasphemy  
or save a child's life

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante once smashed a baptistery not as an act of blasphemy but to save a child's life. Rumors, however, arose that he had committed blasphemy. By writing his INFERNO, Dante criticizes the Catholic Church, but he does not do that as an act of blasphemy but as a way of reforming the Church to make it stronger.**

## Canto 19: CORRUPTION



<https://pixabay.com/en/handcuffs-money-corruption-economy-2070577/>

\*\*\*

**Who buys church offices?**

**People who see an investment**

**Not good-deed doers**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Do we want a Pope who has bought his way to be Pope? No. Such a person would use his power to do corrupt deeds such as advance his own family at the expense of the people he ought to be serving.**

## Canto 19: SIMONISTS' PUNISHMENT



There stood I like the friar, that doth shrive  
A wretch for murder doom'd.

*Canto XIX., lines 10, 11.*

**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

\*\*\*

**Stuck in holes in ground**

**Like fall of Simon Magus**

**Flames dance on their feet**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Simony got its name from Simon Magus, aka Simon the Magician. He attempted to buy spiritual gifts that are not sale. In the Apocrypha, he flies in the air but Saint Peter prays and he falls to ground. The Simonists are punished as if they had fallen to earth from the sky. The flames dancing on their feet form a parody of the Pentecost.**



**Canto 20: SOOTHSAYERS AND FORTUNE  
TELLERS**



**Illustrator: Stradanus (1523-1605)**

\*\*\*

**Heads are on backward  
Tried to look too far ahead  
Now always look back**

## **Canto 20: WET BUTT CRACKS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/statue-stone-po-butt-naked-sexy-748387/>

\*\*\*

**Their heads on backwards  
Unhappy soothsayers cry  
Tears flow down butt crack**

## Canto 20: TRUTH



<https://pixabay.com/en/man-begging-lack-of-money-crisis-2503248/>

\*\*\*

**Truth is important**

**Dante must write truth in poems**

**Fraudsters hide the truth**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Virgil tells the truth about the founding of Mantua, the city where he was born, thus showing that some versions of the founding of the city are incorrect.**

**Dante must tell the truth when he writes *The Divine Comedy*.**

## Canto 21: THE GRAFTERS



<https://pixabay.com/en/coins-banknotes-money-currency-1726618/>

\*\*\*

**The grafters took bribes**

**Grafters have sticky fingers**

**Stand in sticky pitch**

\*\*\*

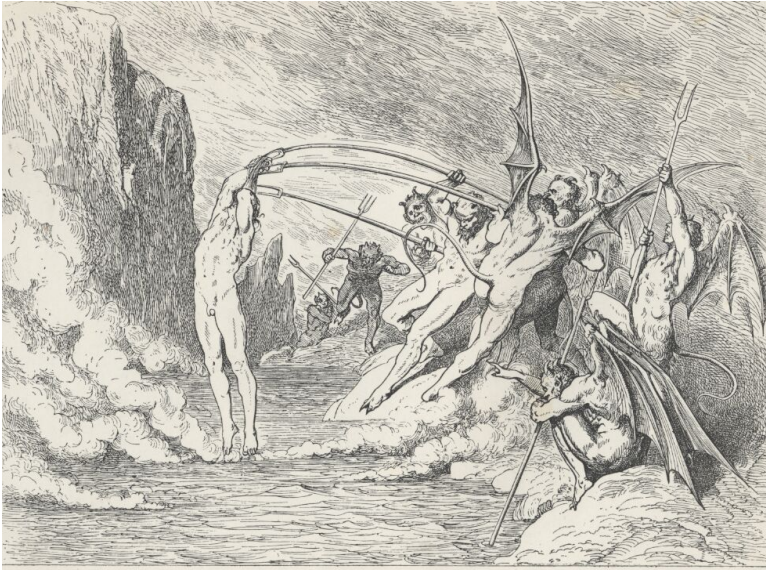
**NOTE: Lots of politicians and judges are punished in the fifth ditch of the eighth circle. An example of graft is when a politician uses insider information to buy tracts of land that the government needs to do a public project and then overcharging the government for the land.**

**The government uses taxpayer money to pay for the land, and so the corrupt politician is stealing from the taxpayers. Graft is corruption; it includes taking bribes. What simony is to the religious world, graft is to**

**the secular world. The grafters are punished by being  
forced to stand in boiling, sticky pitch, aka tar.**



## Canto 21: MALEBRANCHE



This said,  
They grappled him with more than hundred hooks.  
*Canto XXI., lines 50, 51.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Name means “evil claws”**

**Black devils carry pitchforks**

**Torment the grafters**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The Malebranche are black devils who make sure that the grafters stay in the boiling pitch and don't get relief by raising their backs out of the pitch. When the Malebranche see a grafter doing that, they try to use their pitchforks to spear the grafter and lift him out of the pitch so they can torment him.**

## **Canto 21: MALACODA**



<https://pixabay.com/en/pitchfork-gallows-agricultural-tool-803884/>

\*\*\*

**The devil in charge  
Wants to harm Virgil but can't  
Virgil does God's work**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Virgil tells Dante to hide until he can talk to the devils. He talks to their leader, Malacoda, and tells him that he is on a mission from God. Malacoda is disappointed because he knows he can't harm Virgil or Dante. He would prefer to stab them with his pitchfork.**



## **Canto 22: FROG-LIKE GRAFTERS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/frog-pond-animal-water-frog-3006496/>

\*\*\*

**Grafters look like frogs  
Raise back out of boiling pitch  
To get some relief**

## Canto 22: FRAUD IN ACTION



In pursuit  
He therefore sped, exclaiming, "Thou art caught."  
*Canto XXII., lines 125, 126.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Grafter fools devils**

**Says he will help them, but then**

**He jumps and escapes**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The black devils capture a grafter who says that he will help them to capture seven other sinners whom they can torment. But the grafter says that the devils must back away from him so that he can signal the other sinners that it is safe for them to raise their backs out of the boiling pitch and get some relief from their torment. The devils back away, but the sinner jumps into the pitch and escapes the devils' torture.**

## Canto 22: DEVILS FIGHT



But the other proved  
A goshawk able to rend well his foe ;  
And in the boiling lake both fell.  
*Canto XXII., lines 137—139.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Devils like to fight**

**Devil finds excuse to fight**

**Devils fall in pitch**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The devil Calcabrina realizes that the grafter is attempting to escape, but he allows the grafter to attempt the escape. Calcabrina wants the grafter to dive back into the boiling pitch so that Calcabrina can blame another devil — Alichin — and fight him. The grafter escapes, the devils fight, and the devils also fall into the boiling pitch.**

## **Canto 23: LESSON OF THE AFTERLIFE**



<https://pixabay.com/en/justice-statue-lady-justice-2060093/>

\*\*\*

**guilty are punished**  
**— lesson of the afterlife —**  
**innocent go free**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante and Virgil escape from the devils, two of whom have fallen into the boiling pitch.**



## Canto 23: HYPOCRITES



"Tuscan, who visitest  
The college of the mourning hypocrites,  
Disdain not to instruct us who thou art."  
*Canto XXIII, lines 92-94.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**very heavy cloaks**

**gold outside, iron inside**

**just like hypocrites**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The hypocrites are condemned to wear very heavy cloaks in the sixth bolgia of Circle 8. The cloaks are gold on the outside and iron on the inside. The hypocrites pretended to be gold, but on the inside they were made of base metal/mettle.**

## Canto 23: JOVIAL FRIARS



<https://pixabay.com/en/friars-carthusians-head-convent-1638506/>

\*\*\*

**pretend peacekeepers**

**fomenters of violence**

**they are hypocrites**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Two Jovial Friars are among the hypocrites. They were brought into Florence to keep the peace, but instead they sided with different political parties and fomented violence.**



## Canto 23: CAIAPHAS



“That pierced spirit, whom intent  
Thou view'st, was he who gave the Pharisees  
Counsel, that it were fitting for one man  
To suffer for the people.”

*Canto XXIII., lines 117—120.*

P

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Crucified on ground**

**Jews who helped to kill Jesus**

**New sight to Virgil**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The only other time Virgil traveled through the Inferno, Jesus had not yet been crucified and Caiaphas and these other Jews were not yet in the Inferno, and so crucifixion is a new sight to Virgil. The hypocrites in this bolgia step on the crucified figures.**

## CANTO 24: THIEVES



<https://pixabay.com/en/thief-burglary-break-into-balaclava-1562699/>

\*\*\*

**A snake bites a thief**

**The thief is burned to ashes**

**Then regains his form**

\*\*\*

**In the seventh bolgia of Circle 8, thieves have nothing  
except their form, but they are unable to keep their  
form for very long.**

**Canto 24: SLOTHFUL PEOPLE GET NO  
WORTHWHILE FAME**



<https://pixabay.com/en/cat-dark-coffee-lazy-lying-wood-1351612/>

\*\*\*

**Slothful? Then no fame**

**Some kinds of fame are worthwhile**

**Leave a legacy**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Writing THE DIVINE COMEDY took much effort, but Dante achieved a kind of fame that is worthwhile and long-lasting.**

## Canto 24: VANNI FUCCI



<https://pixabay.com/en/gold-ingots-golden-treasure-513062/>

\*\*\*

**What did Vanni steal?**

**Treasure of San Jacopo**

**Located in a church**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In 1293, Vanni Fucci stole the treasure of San Jacopo. This treasure was located in the Duomo — the cathedral church — of San Zeno. One of the people falsely accused of the theft spent a year in prison. Vanni Fucci, however, avoided paying the penalty for the theft by leaving the area.**



**Canto 25: CACUS THE CENTAUR**



<https://pixabay.com/en/basilisk-rattlesnake-rattlesnake-7308/>

\*\*\*

**Cacus was a thief  
Stole strong Hercules' cattle  
Now punishes thieves**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Most of the Centaurs guard the violent sinners who are in the river of boiling blood, but since Cacus was a thief, he is in this bolgia. When sinners such as Vanni Fucci blaspheme against God, Cacus carries snakes and fire-breathing dragons to them.**



## Canto 25: TRANSFORMATION OF THIEVES



Amid this dread exuberance of woe  
Ran naked spirits wing'd with horrid fear,  
Nor hope had they of crevice where to hide,  
Or heliotrope to charm them out of view.  
*Canto XXIV, lines 89-92.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Thieves keep on thieving**

**Even in the Inferno**

**Steal other thieves' forms**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The thieves in the seventh bolgia of Circle 8 steal the forms of other thieves. Some thieves have the forms of snakes, while some other thieves have the form of humans. A snake bites a thief, and the thief and the snake exchange forms. Other things can happen. A snake can bite a thief and the snake and thief combine forms to become one being. Or a snake can bite a thief**

**and the thief burns to ashes and then is reconstituted.  
Thieves make things uncertain. Do you own something?  
You think you do, but then you don't because a thief  
has stolen it. Thieves made the lives of others uncertain  
in the Land of the Living. In the INFERNO, thieves  
lead uncertain existences.**

**Canto 25: UNCERTAINTY**



<https://pixabay.com/en/present-gift-box-gold-ribbon-2912709/>

\*\*\*

**Do you own this thing?**

**Maybe yes, maybe no. Thieves**

**Make that uncertain**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Thieves create uncertainty, and in the Inferno, they experience uncertainty. They are constantly bitten,**

**but they never know what will happen when they are bitten. One: The thief may be reduced to ashes and then reconstituted. Two: The thief and the biting reptile may be joined into one body. Three: The thief and the biting reptile may exchange forms.**

## Canto 26: EVIL ADVISORS



The guide, who mark'd  
How I did gaze attentive, thus began:  
"Within these ardours are the spirits, each  
Swathed in confining fire."

*Canto XXVI, lines 46-49.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Evil advisors**

**They used talent for evil**

**Dante has talent**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In the eighth bolgia of Circle 8, the evil advisors are punished by being enclosed in a flame. These sinners had talent, but they used their talent for evil, not good. Dante has talent, and he must learn here to use his talent for good. If he uses his talent for evil, when he dies, he will be eternally punished here.**

## Canto 26: ULYSSES



[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Trojan\\_horse#/media/File:Beware\\_of\\_Greeks\\_bearing\\_gifts.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Trojan_horse#/media/File:Beware_of_Greeks_bearing_gifts.jpg)

\*\*\*

**Evil deceiver**

**Invented the Trojan horse**

**Women, children died**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: One of the evil advisors punished in the eighth bolgia of Circle 8 is Ulysses, who came up with the idea of the Trojan horse, the stratagem that resulted in the sack of Troy. During the sack, many women and children died.**



## Canto 26: ULYSSES AND DIOMEDES



<https://pixabay.com/en/fire-carbon-charcoal-hot-embers-2204171/>

\*\*\*

Two sinners punished  
Together in burning flames  
Forever angry

\*\*\*

**NOTE:** Ulysses and Diomedes misused their great talents during the Trojan War, and they are punished together in one burning flame. They are forever angry at each other just like Eteocles and Polynices, who were supposed to share being King of Thebes, one brother ruling for a year and then the other brother ruling for a year. Eteocles kept the crown, Polynices raised an army that had seven captains, and Polynices and his army attacked Thebes in a battle that is known as the Seven

**Against Thebes. Eteocles and Polynices died, they were cremated on the same pier, and the flame top split because they were still angry at each other even in death. Just like the flame tip of Eteocles and Polynices, the flame tip of Ulysses and Diomedes is split.**

## Canto 26: *PIETAS*



<https://pixabay.com/en/baby-feet-father-mother-2717347/>

\*\*\*

**Respect for one's wife**

**Respect for one's old father**

**Respect for one's son**

\*\*\*

**NOTE:** *Pietas* is a Roman virtue that consists of duty and respect. A virtuous person does his duty to and shows respect for his spouse, parents, and children — also, God and country. Ulysses did not have *pietas*. He was away from home for the ten years of the Trojan War, and it took him ten more years to get back home after the war ended. But he quickly got bored and left home to seek more adventures, although he should have stayed home and taken care of his wife, his aged father,

**and his son. (His mother had earlier died out of grief for  
him.)**

## **Canto 26: FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE**



<https://pixabay.com/en/addict-addiction-ashtray-bad-burnt-84430/>

\*\*\*

**Forbidden knowledge**

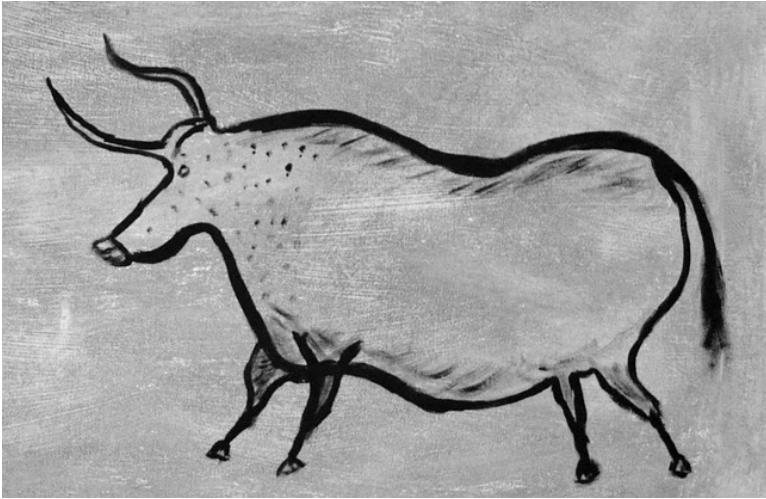
**Knowledge of all human vices**

**Experience, too**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Ulysses wanted to know and experience all human virtues and all human vices. Pursuit of the knowledge and experience of all human virtues is permitted; pursuit of the knowledge and experience of all human vices is NOT permitted.**

## Canto 27: THE BRONZE BULL



<https://pixabay.com/en/stone-age-painting-mural-lascaux-2115390/>

\*\*\*

**The metal bull roars**

**A man roasts and screams inside**

**An evil sculpture**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Phalaris was the cruel ruler of a city in ancient Sicily. He commissioned Perillus to make a hollow bronze bull in such a way that the screams of a victim roasted inside the bull would sound like the bellows of a bull. Perillus became the first victim of the bull; Phalaris was overthrown and also became a victim of the bull. Perillus had great abilities, but he misused them.**

## **Canto 27: GUIDO DA MONTEFELTRO**



<https://pixabay.com/en/cars-autos-accident-vehicle-crash-2469667/>

\*\*\*

**He tried to scam God  
Not surprisingly, he failed**

**Now he is in Hell**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Guido da Montefeltro engaged in power politics for much of his adult life, and when he got old he decided to take care of his soul by becoming religious. But he failed to sincerely repent his sins and so now he is in the Inferno.**



## Canto 27: SCAMMING THE SCAMMER



<https://pixabay.com/en/cartridges-weapon-war-hand-gun-2166491/>

\*\*\*

**Pope scammed the scammer**

**Said his sin is forgiven**

**Pope will be in Hell**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Pope Boniface VIII scammed Guide da Montefeltro by telling him not to worry about committing a certain sin — as Pope, he would make sure Guido got in Heaven. Guido committed the sin that the Pope wanted him to commit, and Guido and the Pope will spend eternity in the Inferno. The sin was how to achieve victory over a family that was opposing the Pope. Guido’s advice was to make a truce with the family and then break it.**

**Canto 27: GUIDO WENT TO HELL**



<https://pixabay.com/en/statue-garden-art-1002552/>

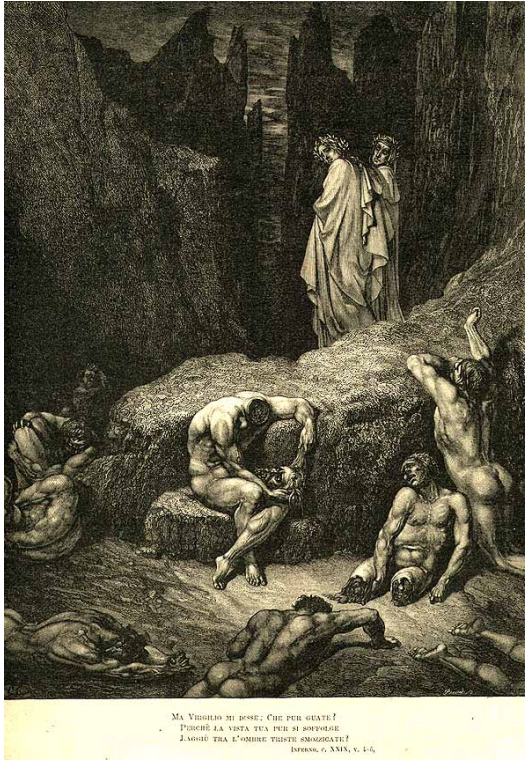
\*\*\*

**Guido went to Hell:  
People cannot repent sin  
While committing sin**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: When Guido da Montefeltro died, Saint Francis came to escort his soul to Heaven, but a black angel came and said, "He is mine! His repentance was false and insincere! One cannot repent a sin while committing the sin."**

## Canto 28: THE SCHISMATICS



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

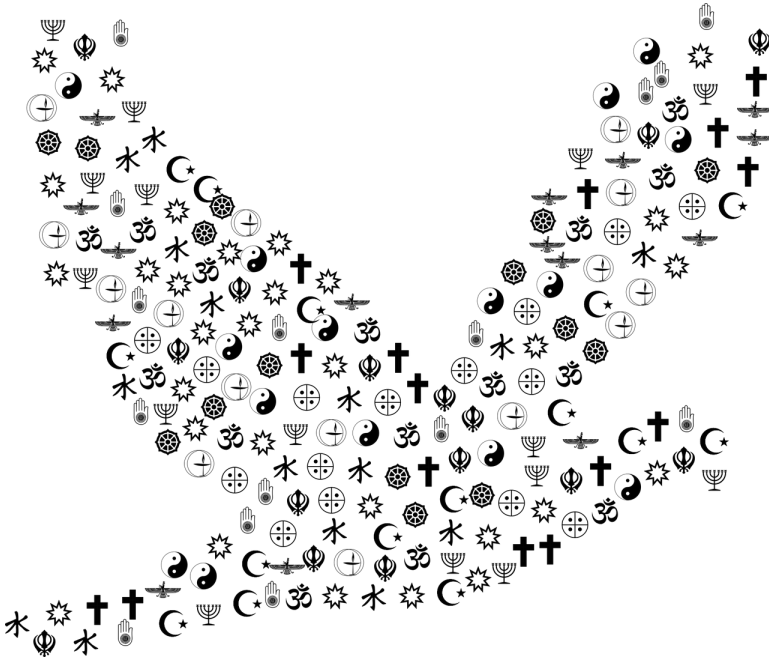
**Schism in Family,  
Schism in Politics, also  
Schism in Religion**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In the ninth bolgia of Circle 8 are the schismatics. They caused breaks in families; for example, they caused a father and a son to hate each other. They caused breaks in politics; for example, they**

**caused two political parties to hate each other. They caused breaks in religion; for example, they caused the one true religion to splinter into two opposing religions. Because the schismatics caused breaks and splits, they suffer breaks and splits: A devil cuts their bodies as they walk around the bolgia. For example, a person who caused a split between a father and son by causing the father (head of the household) and the son to hate each other will have his head cut off.**

## Canto 28: SCHISM



<https://pixabay.com/en/religion-ahimsa-ahura-mazda-baha-i-2028188/>

\*\*\*

**Dante hated Islam,  
Regarded Islam as a schism  
In the Christian Church**

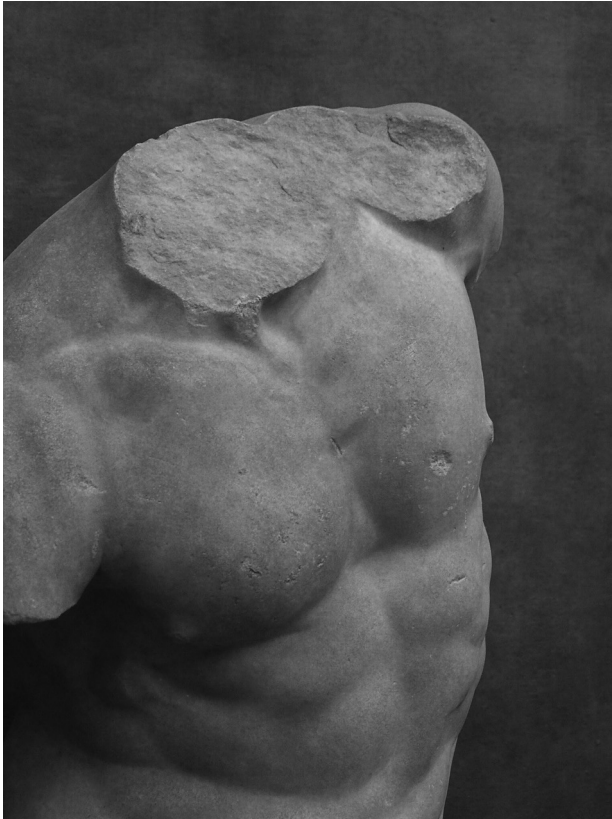
\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante put Muhammad and Ali in the ninth bolgia of Circle 9 because he regarded them as causing a schism in the Christian Church. Protestantism came much later, and Dante would have hated that, too. Of course, Dante's opinion is controversial. Today, we are much more likely to have respect for many religions.**

**One way to respect a religion is to investigate it to see what truth it contains.**



## **Canto 28: EXTREME FACTIONALISM**



<https://pixabay.com/en/bust-italy-artwork-museum-statue-2765382/>

\*\*\*

**Broken engagement**

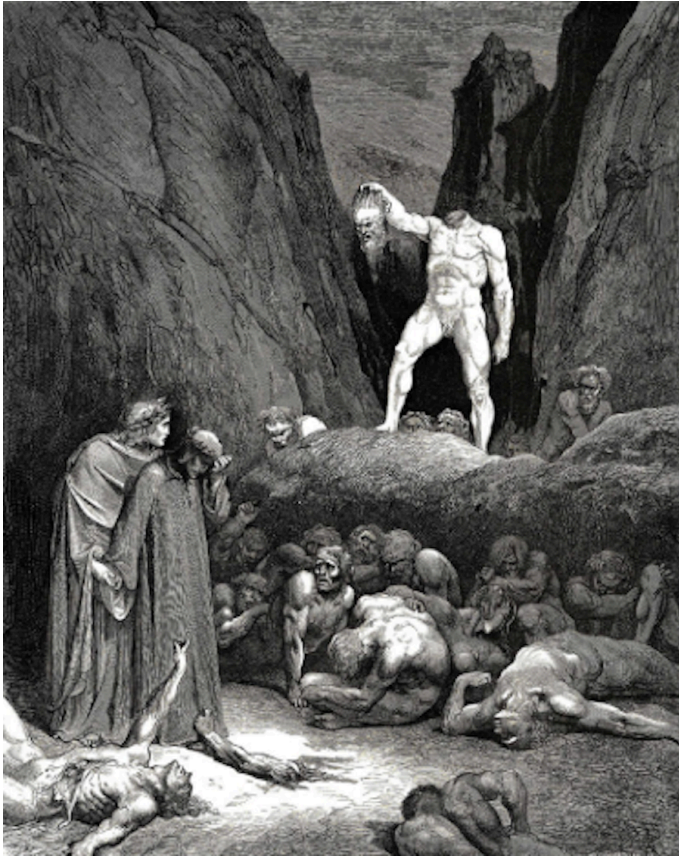
**Hate: Ghibellines versus Guelfs**

**Factionalism**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Buondelmonte de' Buondelmonti was engaged to be married to the daughter of Lambertuccio degli Amidei, but when a better offer came along — Aldruda, a member of the Donati family, offered him her daughter to be his bride — he took it. Although Aldruda offered to pay the expenses of the broken engagement, this was a major insult to my family, and Buondelmonte de' Buondelmonti was murdered. After he was killed, the two factions of the Guelfs and the Ghibellines began.**

**Canto 28: THE PERFECT CONTRAPASSO**



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**The contrapasso**

**Perfect punishment of Hell**

**Poetic justice**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Bertran de Born urged a son to rebel against his father, the head of the family, and so Bertran's head is cut off each time he completes the circuit of this circle of Hell.**

## Canto 29: ALCHEMISTS



<https://pixabay.com/en/gold-ingots-golden-treasure-513062/>

\*\*\*

**Sin is an illness**

**Alchemists have leprosy**

**Good skin now sick skin**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In the tenth and final bolgia of Circle 8, Dante sees falsifiers of various kinds. The alchemists tried to change lead into gold, and now their healthy skin is changed into diseased skin.**

## Canto 29: EVIL IMPERSONATORS



<https://pixabay.com/en/hand-leave-pen-paper-letters-will-229777/>

\*\*\*

### Impersonators

Confused about who they are

Now they are insane

\*\*\*

**NOTE:** The evil impersonators made other people confused about who the evil impersonators were. In the inferno, the evil impersonators are insane and they are confused about they are. One evil impersonator was Gianni Schicchi. When the wealthy patriarch of a family died and this fact was not yet known, his son worried that much wealth had been willed outside the family and so he had Gianni Schicchi pretend to be his

**father, imitate his father's voice, and make a new will orally. Gianni Schicchi did this, but in the will he left much wealth to himself.**



## Canto 29: COUNTERFEITERS



<https://pixabay.com/en/gold-coin-museum-treasure-thaler-1633073/>

\*\*\*

**adulterate gold**

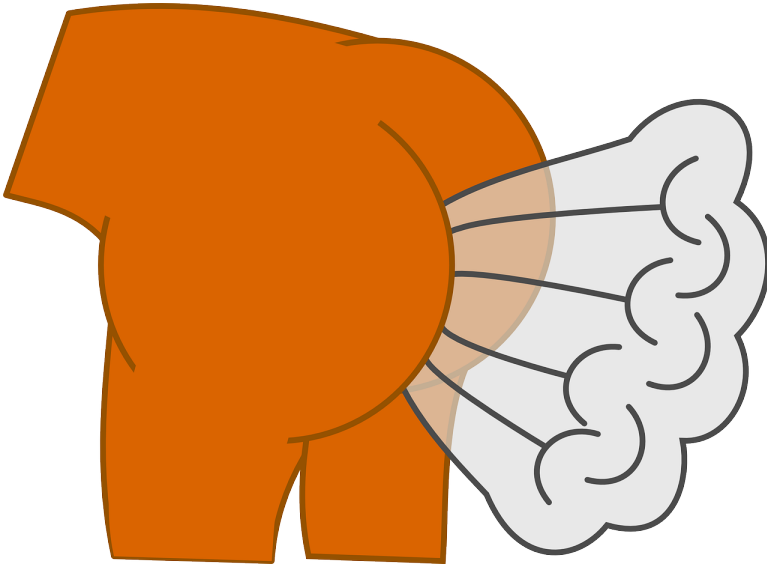
**make it seem more than it is**

**suffer from dropsy**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The counterfeiters mixed base metal with gold and then cast gold coins that appeared to be more valuable than they really were; in other words, they made gold appear to be bigger than it really was. In the Inferno, the counterfeiters suffer from dropsy, which makes their body swell up and be bigger than it should be.**

**Canto 29: LIARS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/air-anatomy-ass-bare-behind-blow-160492/>

\*\*\*

**Sin is an illness**

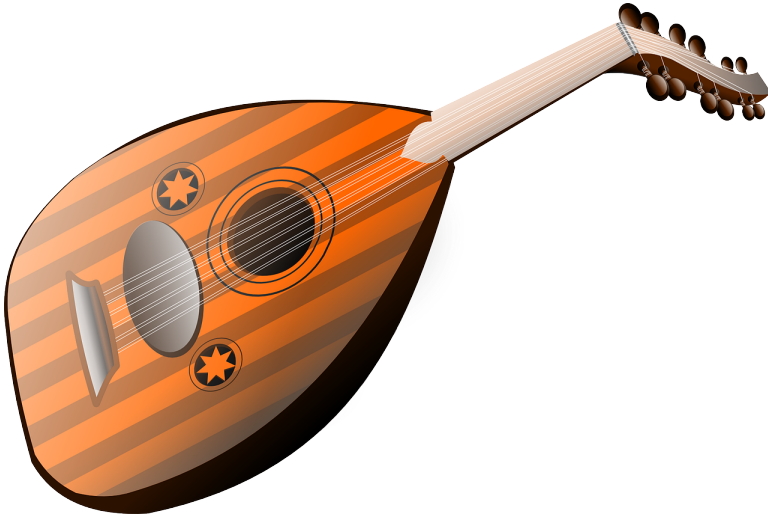
**Liars' testimony stank**

**Now the liars stink**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The liars in the Inferno are feverous and they stink.**

**Canto 30: DROPSY, AKA EDEMA**



<https://pixabay.com/en/mandolin-musical-instrument-lute-159654/>

\*\*\*

**Master Adamo's**

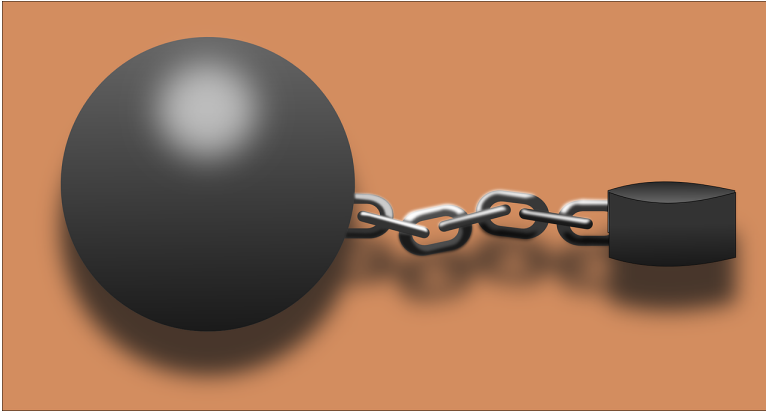
**Swollen body resembles a lute —**

**Swollen with dropsy**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Master Adamo was a counterfeiter, and in the Inferno he suffers from dropsy, which makes his belly swell. If his arms and legs were cut off, he would look like a lute or a guitar. The modern term for dropsy is edema. The drawing shows a mandolin, which is a member of the lute family.**

## Canto 30: REVENGE



<https://pixabay.com/en/jailbird-prisoner-ball-and-chain-154564/>

\*\*\*

wants to drag body  
one inch each one hundred years  
to reach employers

\*\*\*

**NOTE:** If it were possible, Master Adamo, a counterfeiter who is in the Inferno, is willing to drag his body even one inch each one hundred years in order to finally reach and torment those who were his employers in the Land of the Living. He is willing to do this although the circle he is in is eleven miles around and at least one-half mile wide.

**Canto 30: SINON THE LYING GREEK**



<https://pixabay.com/en/horse-troy-wooden-monochrome-moody-2185227/>

\*\*\*

**Sinon, lying Greek  
Responsible for Troy's fall  
Famous Trojan Horse**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Sinon is one of the liars punished in the Inferno. He lied to the Trojans, telling them that if the Trojan Horse were brought into Troy, then Troy would never fall. Some Trojans wanted to cast the Trojan Horse into the sea, but Sinon convinced the Trojans not to do that. That night, Greek soldiers came out of the hollow Trojan Horse, went to the gates of Troy, opened them, and let in other Greek soldiers.**

**Canto 30: DANTE WASTES TIME**



<https://pixabay.com/en/time-spiral-droste-clock-hours-1752164/>

\*\*\*

**valuable time**

**lost listening to sinners**

**no more to learn here**

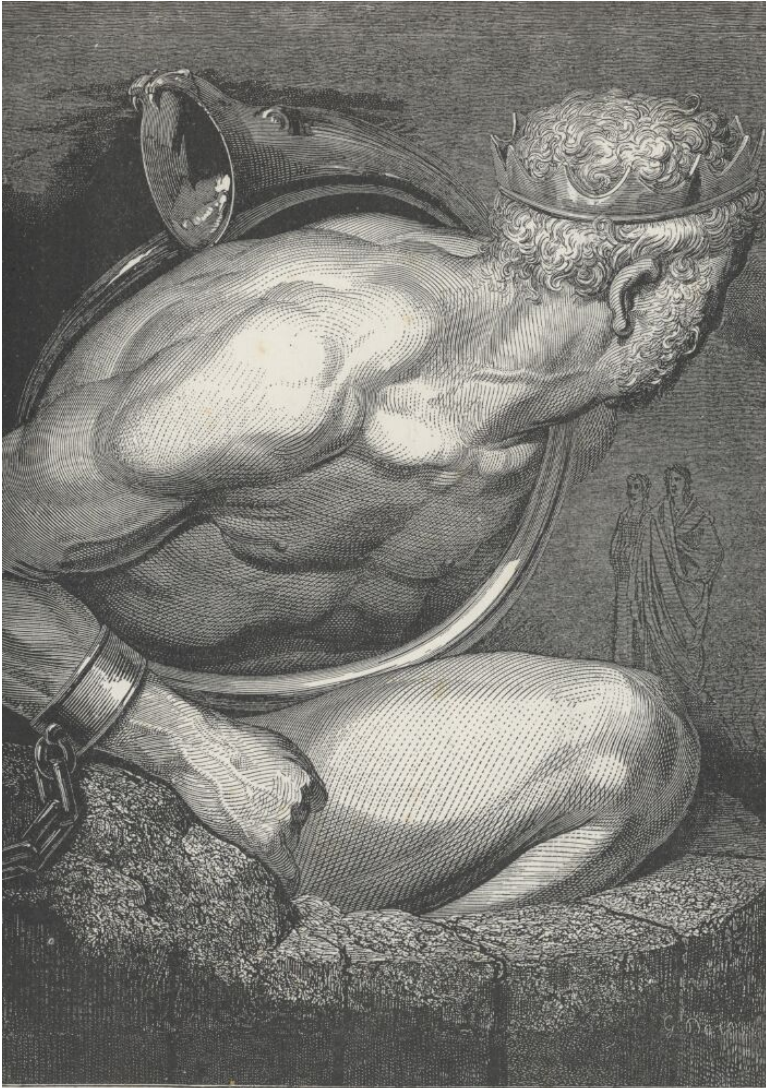
\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante listens to Master Adamo and Sinon argue, and Virgil grows angry because Dante has much**



**more to learn in the Inferno and he can learn no more  
here.**

## Canto 31: NIMROD



“Oh, senseless spirit! let thy horn for thee  
Interpret: therewith vent thy rage, if rage  
Or other passion wring thee.”

*Canto XXXI, lines 64–66.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**The giant Nimrod**

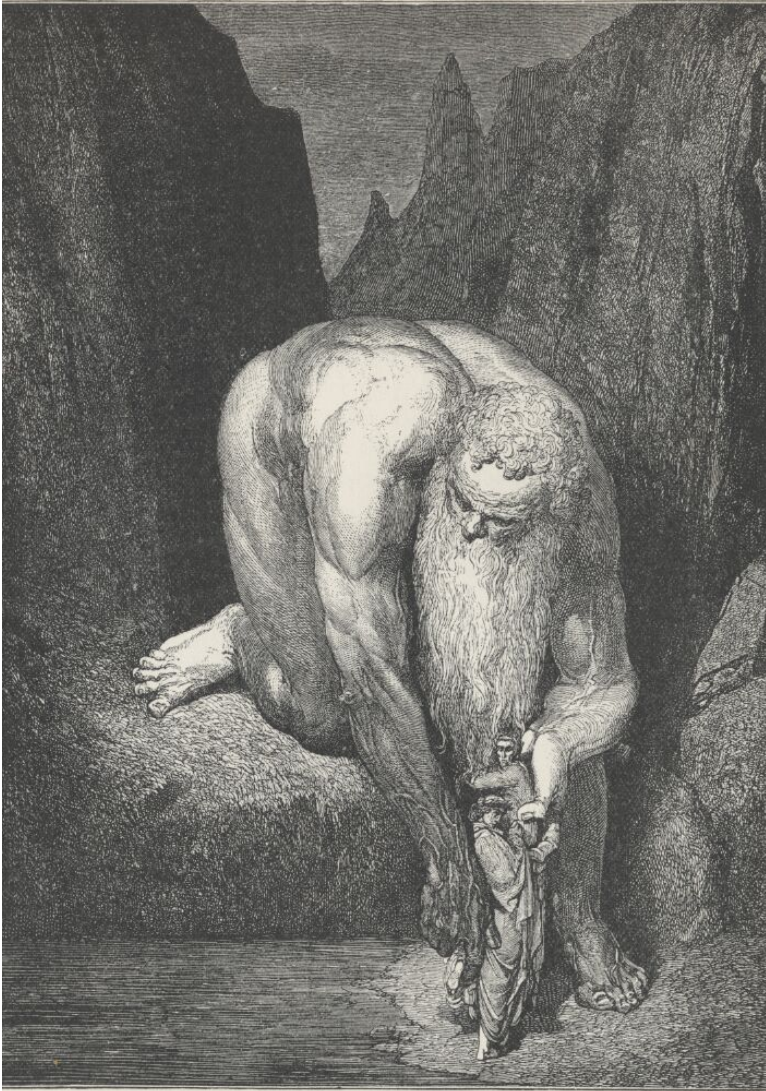
**Attempted to reach Heaven**

**God defeated him**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Nimrod attempted to build a tower that would reach Heaven. God stopped him by creating many languages instead of just the one language that had existed until then. The workers could no longer coordinate their labors, and so the Tower of Babel was never finished. Now Nimrod is in the Inferno, and he can say only nonsense syllables; in addition, he cannot understand the languages of others.**

## Canto 31: GIANTS



Yet in the abyss,  
That Lucifer with Judas low ingulls,  
Lightly he placed us.

*Canto XXXI., lines 133—135.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Circle Eight to Circle Nine**

**This journey requires giants**

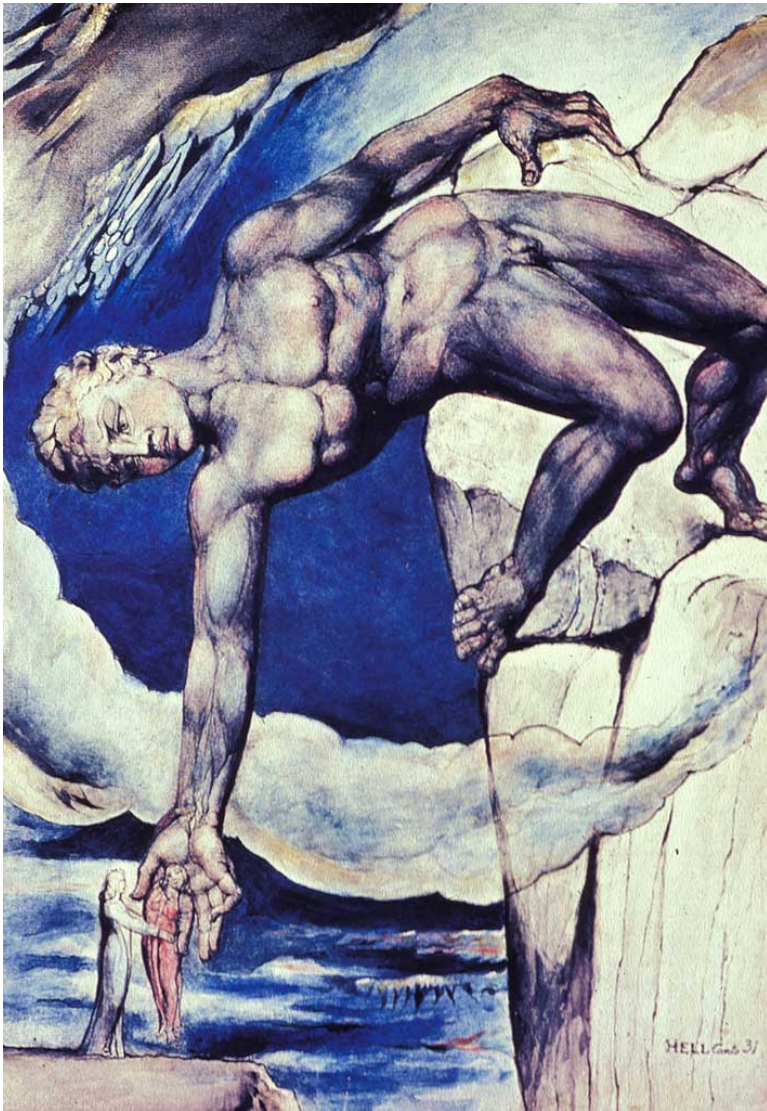
**Must go down a well**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: To go from Circle Eight to Circle Nine, a giant must lower you in his hand. The giant guards here stand in a well. Only the top half of their bodies is visible in Circle Eight.**



**Canto 31: ANTAEUS**



**Artist: William Blake**

\*\*\*

**Giant Antaeus  
Lowers Virgil and Dante  
To the Ninth Circle**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Virgil and Dante stand on Antaeus' hand, and the giant safely lowers them to the Ninth Circle, where the worst sinners of all time are punished.**



## Canto 32: TRAITORS



"Look how thou walkest. Take  
Good heed, thy soles do tread not on the heads  
Of thy poor brethren."  
*Canto XXXII, lines 20–22.*

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**the worst of the worst  
punished here in Circle 9**

**Inferno's bottom**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Circle 9 is where traitors are punished: traitors against kin/family, traitors against government, traitors against guests or hosts, and traitors against God. Being a traitor is committed in cold blood, and so traitors are frozen in ice.**

## **Canto 32: CAINA**



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Named after Cain**

**Traitors against family**

**Frozen up to neck**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The traitors are punished eternally in Circle 9, the lowest circle in the INFERNO. It is divided into four rings. In the first ring, CAINA, which is named after Cain, who murdered Abel, the traitors against family are frozen in ice up to their neck.**

**Canto 32: NAPOLEONE AND ALLESSANDRO**



**Source: Ritratto di Sandro Botticelli, Portrait of Dante Alighieri**

\*\*\*

**two brothers butt heads  
a Guelph and a Ghibelline  
they murdered each other**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Napoleone and Alessandro are brothers who followed different political factions, but they are punished in Caina because they murdered each other not over politics but over their inheritance.**

## **Canto 32: ANTENOR**



**Artist: Jules Lefebvre**

\*\*\*

**Traitor against Troy**

**Opened city gates to Greeks**

**Who sacked the city**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: The traitors are punished eternally in Circle 9, the lowest circle in the INFERNO. It is divided into four rings. In the second ring, ANTENORA, which is named after Antenor, a Trojan who betrayed his city, the traitors against country or political party are frozen in ice up to their neck, like the traitors against family. The painting shows the death of King Priam of Troy.**

## Canto 32: BOCCA



**Engraver: Gustave Doré**

\*\*\*

**“Why did you kick me?**

**“Who are you to kick sinners?**

**“I won’t say my name!”**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Dante kicks hard one of the sinners frozen in the ice, perhaps accidentally. The sinner screams at him. Dante asks the sinner for his name, but the sinner does not want to be remembered in the Land of the Living. Dante begins to tear out the sinner’s hair. Another sinner, however, identifies this sinner to Dante. He is Bocca, and in 1260, at the Battle of Montaperti, he betrayed his city: Florence.**

## Canto 33: TOLOMEA



<https://pixabay.com/en/knife-stabbing-stab-kill-murder-316655/>

\*\*\*

**Traitors against guests**

**Named after Captain Ptolemy**

**Murdered relatives**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: In the third ring of Circle 9 are punished those who were treacherous to guests. This ring, Tolomea, is named after Ptolemy, a captain of Jericho, who invited his father-in-law and his father-in-law's three sons to a meal and then murdered them: See 1 Maccabees 16:11-17.**



## Canto 33: UGOLINO AND RUGGIERI



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Sinner eats the head**

**Of the sinner who starved him**

**And his family**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Ugolino and Ruggieri were political rivals in Pisa. Ugolino was a Guelph, and Ruggieri was a Ghibelline. Ugolino betrayed his city by giving away much city property such as castles to the Guelphs. Ruggieri betrayed an associate by starving to death Ugolino and his children after locking them in a tower. Ugolino is punished in Antenora, while Ruggieri is punished in Tolomea. They are close enough that**

**Ugolino can cannibalize Ruggieri's head. After  
Ugolino's children died, he ate their flesh.**

**Canto 33: “DO YOU EVER CRY?”**



<https://pixabay.com/en/portrait-male-heart-love-people-1648562/>

\*\*\*

**“Do you ever cry?”  
Ugolino’s heart is stone  
It’s not made of flesh**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Ugolino tells his story to Dante, and he asks, “If you do not cry at what I am telling you, do you ever cry?” But Ugolino also says that he did not cry. Why not? He is an evil man. He was involved in devious political manipulations and betrayals. At this point, his heart has turned to stone. The King James Version translation of Ezekiel 36:26 says, “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” But the things Ugolino did earned him a heart of stone, not a heart of flesh.**

**Canto 33: DEATH OF INNOCENTS**



<https://pixabay.com/en/child-boy-mother-tombstone-5835/>

\*\*\*

**Power politics**  
**Extreme factionalism**  
**Death of innocents**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Ugolini and Ruggieri engaged in power politics,  
and innocents died as a result.**

## Canto 33: LIVING BODIES



<https://pixabay.com/en/dark-art-daemon-the-witch-fireball-2838965/>

\*\*\*

**Bodies still alive**

**Souls dead in the Inferno**

**Too evil sinners**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Some sinners are so evil that their souls enter the Inferno before their bodies die. While the souls suffer in Hell, demons possess the bodies in the Land of the Living.**



## Canto 34: JUDECCA



**Photo: Veit Feger (own photograph by Veit Feger)  
[Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons. Kath.  
Pfarrkirche St. Martin, Breitenbrunn, Landkreis  
Unterallgäu Deckenmedaillon: Judas erhängt sich**

\*\*\*

**Named after Judas**

**Punishes the worst of the worst**

**Traitors against God**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: In the fourth and final ring of Circle 9 are punished the very worst of the worst: those who were traitors against God. The painting shows Judas Iscariot, who committed suicide by hanging himself.**

## **Canto 34: LUCIFER**



**Illustrator: William Blake**

**\*\*\***

**One head, three faces**

**Perversion of Trinity**

**This is Lucifer**

**\*\*\***

**NOTE: Once Lucifer was the most beautiful of all beings. Now Lucifer is the foulest of all beings.**

**Canto 34: THREE WORST HUMAN SINNERS OF  
ALL TIME**



**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**One head, three faces**

**Brutus, Cassius, and Judas**

**One chewed in each mouth**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Lucifer has one head but three faces. In his mouths he chewed on the three worst sinners of all time. Brutus and Cassius assassinated Julius Caesar and delayed the establishment of the Roman Empire, thereby opposing God's will. Judas betrayed Christ.**

## Canto 34: STARS



E QUINDI USCIMMO A RIVEDER LE STELLE.  
INFERNO, C. XXXIV, v. 129.

**Engraver: Auguste Doré**

\*\*\*

**Climb ever upward**

**Dante looked and saw the stars**

**Reached Purgatory**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Virgil and Dante climb down Lucifer's body, holding onto his body hair. At the center of the Earth — Lucifer's crotch — they turn and start climbing up a path in the Earth that leads to the Mountain of Purgatory. Once there, Dante looks up and sees the stars.**



## Appendix A: ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Photo: David Bruce**

\*\*\*

**Retell *Inferno*?**

**In haiku? Who would do that?**

**I'm not a smart man.**

\*\*\*

**NOTE: Of course, I'm not retelling the *Inferno*. These haiku are notes that tell a few main points about this great epic poem.**



## **Appendix B: INFERNO**

### **INFERNO: CANTO 1**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/31/dante-s-inferno-canto-1/>

### **INFERNO: CANTO 2**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/01/dante-s-inferno-canto-2/>

### **INFERNO: CANTO 3**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/02/dante-s-inferno-canto-3/>

### **INFERNO: CANTO 4**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/03/dante-s-inferno-canto-4/>

### **INFERNO: CANTO 5**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/04/dante-s-inferno-canto-5/>

### **INFERNO: CANTO 6**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/05/dante-s-inferno-canto-6-retelling-the-gluttonous/>

### **INFERNO: CANTO 7**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/06/dante-s-inferno-canto-7-the-wasters-hoarders-wrathful-and-sullen/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 8**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/07/dante-s-inferno-canto-8-retelling-the-boatman-phlegyas-and-filippo-argenti/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 9**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/08/dante-s-inferno-canto-9-retelling/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 10**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/09/dante-s-inferno-canto-10-heretics-in-flaming-tombs/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 11**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/10/dante-s-inferno-canto-11-retelling-virgil-teaches-dante/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 12**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/11/dante-s-inferno-canto-12-retelling-the-minotaur-and-the-river-of-boiling-blood/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 13**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/12/dante-s-inferno-canto-13-retelling-the-suicides/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 14**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/13/dante-s-inferno-canto-14-retelling/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 15**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/14/dante-s-inferno-canto-15-retelling-ca/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 16**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/15/dante-s-inferno-canto-16-retelling-the-violent-against-nature-continued/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 17**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/16/dante-s-inferno-canto-17-retelling-geryon/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 18**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/17/dante-s-inferno-chapter-18-retelling-panders-and-seducers-flatterers/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 19**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/18/dante-s-inferno-canto-19-retelling-the-simonists/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 20**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/19/dante-s-inferno-canto-20-retelling-the-soothsayers-and-fortune-tellers/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 21**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/20/dante-s-inferno-canto-21-retelling-the-grafters/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 22**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/21/dante-s-inferno-canto-22-retelling/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 23**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/22/dante-s-inferno-canto-23-retelling-the-hypocrites/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 24**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/23/dante-s-inferno-canto-24-retelling-the-thieves-including-vanni-fucci/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 25**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/24/dante-s-inferno-canto-25-retelling-the-transformation-of-thieves/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 26**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/25/dante-s-inferno-canto-26-retelling-evil-advisers-ulyssesdiomed/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 27**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/26/dante-s-inferno-canto-27-retelling-guido-da-montefeltro/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 28**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/27/dante-s-inferno-canto-28-retelling-the-schismatics/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 29**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/28/dante-s-inferno-canto-29-retelling-the-falsifiers-alchemists/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 30**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/29/dante-s-inferno-canto-30-retelling-the-falsifiers-evil-impersonators-counterfeiters-and-liars/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 31**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/30/dante-s-inferno-canto-31-retelling-towering-giants/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 32**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/31/dante-s-inferno-canto-32-retelling-caina-and-antenora/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 33**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/02/01/dante-s-inferno-canto-33-retelling/>

**INFERNO: CANTO 34**

<https://davidbruceblog.wordpress.com/2017/02/02/dante-s-inferno-canto-34-retelling-the-ultimate-evil/>

## **Appendix C: SHAMELESS COMMERCE**

**David Bruce's Amazon Author Bookstore**

[http://www.amazon.com/David-Bruce/e/B004KEZ7LY/ref=ntt\\_athr\\_dp\\_pel\\_pop\\_1](http://www.amazon.com/David-Bruce/e/B004KEZ7LY/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_pop_1)

**David Bruce's Smashwords Bookstore**

<http://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/bruceb>

**David Bruce's Apple iBookstore**

<https://itunes.apple.com/ie/artist/david-bruce/id81470634>

**David Bruce's Barnes and Noble Books**

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/david-bruce>

**David Bruce's Lulu Bookstore**

<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/brucebATohioDOTedu>

## **Appendix D: RETELLINGS OF A CLASSIC WORK OF LITERATURE**

*Ben Jonson's The Alchemist: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Bartholomew Fair: A Retelling*

*Ben Jonson's Volpone, or the Fox: A Retelling*

*Dante's Inferno: A Retelling in Prose*

*Dante's Purgatory: A Retelling in Prose*

*Dante's Paradise: A Retelling in Prose*

*Dante's Divine Comedy: A Retelling in Prose*

*Famous Victories of Henry V: A Retelling*

*From the Iliad to the Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose of Quintus of  
Smyrna's Posthomerica*

*Homer's Iliad: A Retelling in Prose*

*Homer's Odyssey: A Retelling in Prose*

*Jason and the Argonauts: A Retelling in Prose of Apollonius of  
Rhodes' Argonautica*

*John Ford's 'Tis Pity She's a Whore: A Retelling*

*Tarlton's Jests: A Retelling*

*The Trojan War and Its Aftermath: Four Ancient Epic Poems*

*Virgil's Aeneid: A Retelling in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 5 Late Romances: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 10 Histories: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 11 Tragedies: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 12 Comedies: Retellings in Prose*

*William Shakespeare's 38 Plays: Retellings in Prose*

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Retelling in Prose*



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