

INFERNO 2

INFERNO V

- Minos and sinners' levels (9-12)
- sound and touch (25-27, 35)
- Analogy 1: The birds (40-49, 82-87)
- Analogy 2: reading (127-37)
- Analogy 3: Dante faints



Now notes of desperation have begun
to overtake my hearing; now I come
where mighty lamentation beats against me.

I reached a place where every light is muted,
which bellows like the sea beneath a tempest,
when it is battered by opposing winds.

When they come up against the ruined slope,
then there are cries and wailing and lament,
and there they curse the force of the divine.

And **as**, in the cold season, starlings' wings
bear them along in broad and crowded ranks
so does that blast bear on the guilty spirits:

now here, now there, now down, now up, it drives them.

There is no hope that ever comforts them—
no hope for rest and none for lesser pain.

And **just as** cranes in flight will chant their lays,
arraying their long file across the air,
so did the shades I saw approaching...

One day, to pass the time away, we read
of Lancelot—how love had overcome him.
We were alone, and we suspected nothing.

And time and time again that reading led
our eyes to meet, and made our faces pale,
and yet one point alone defeated us.

When we had read how the desired smile
was kissed by one who was so true a lover,
this one, who never shall be parted from me,
while all his body trembled, kissed my mouth.
A Gallehault indeed, that book and he
who wrote it, too; that day we read no more."



Anonymous, 1803-04



Ingres, 1819



Ary Sheffer, 1835



Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 1855



Mosé Bianchi, 1877

Gustave Doré, 1870?



Gustave Doré, 1870?



Gustave Doré, 1870?



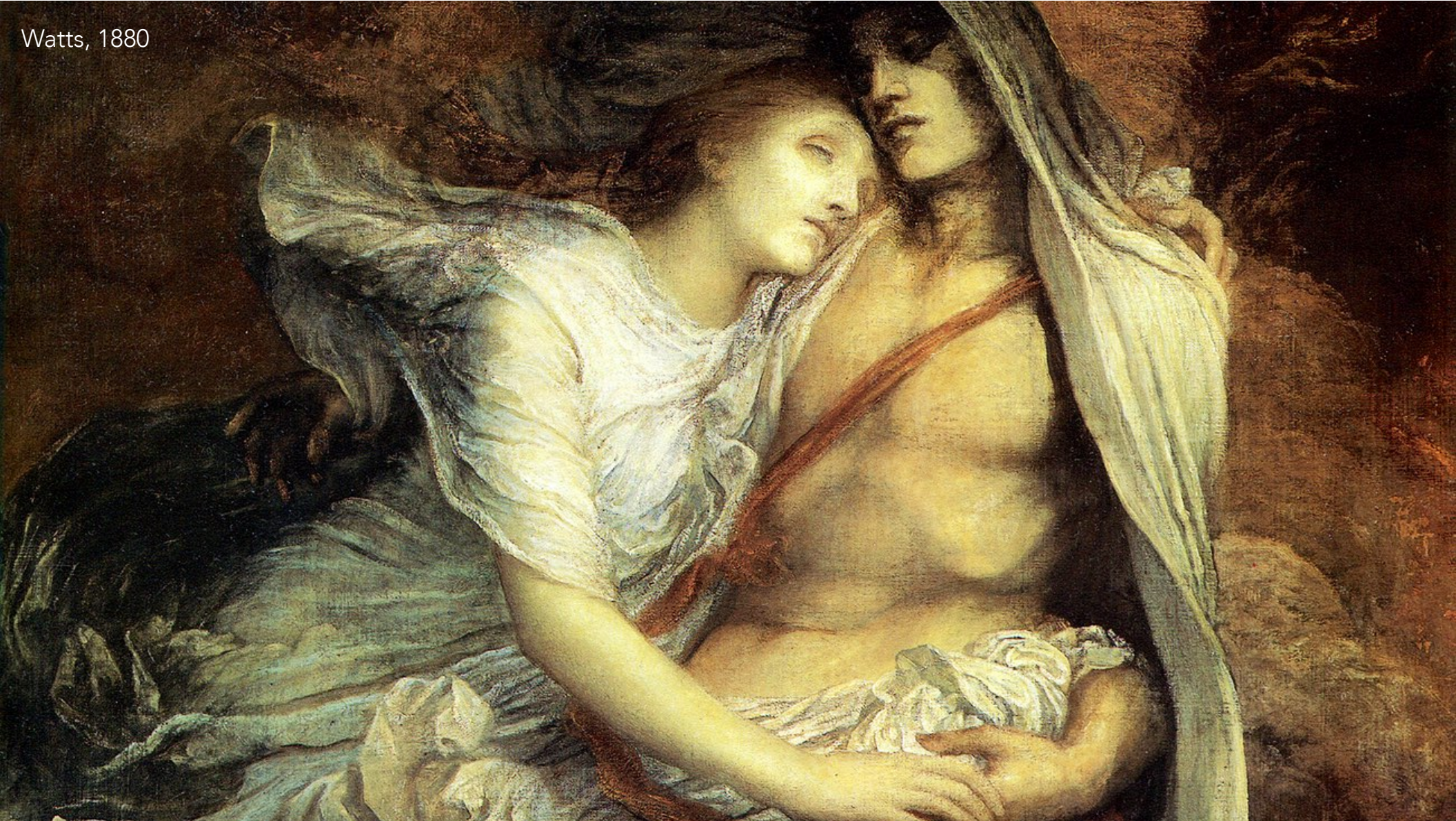


Gustave Doré, 1870?

Cabanel, 1870



Watts, 1880



Previati, 1887



And while one spirit said these words to me,
the other wept, so that—because of pity—
I fainted, as if I had met my death.

And then I fell as a dead body falls.

And then I faint, so
Vergil has to carry me
bridal-style through the



DANTE! IT'S DINNERTIME.
STOP WRITING YOUR
FANFICS AND COME EAT

THEY'RE NOT
FANFICS,
MOTHER.



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LOWER HELL

- the structure of lower Hell, explained: force & fraud
- violence: against others, oneself, God (to them or what is theirs, in each case)
- fraud: no special trust, those of special trust
- this latter category merits its own circle: betrayal
- upper Hell: incontinence
- usury as a sin

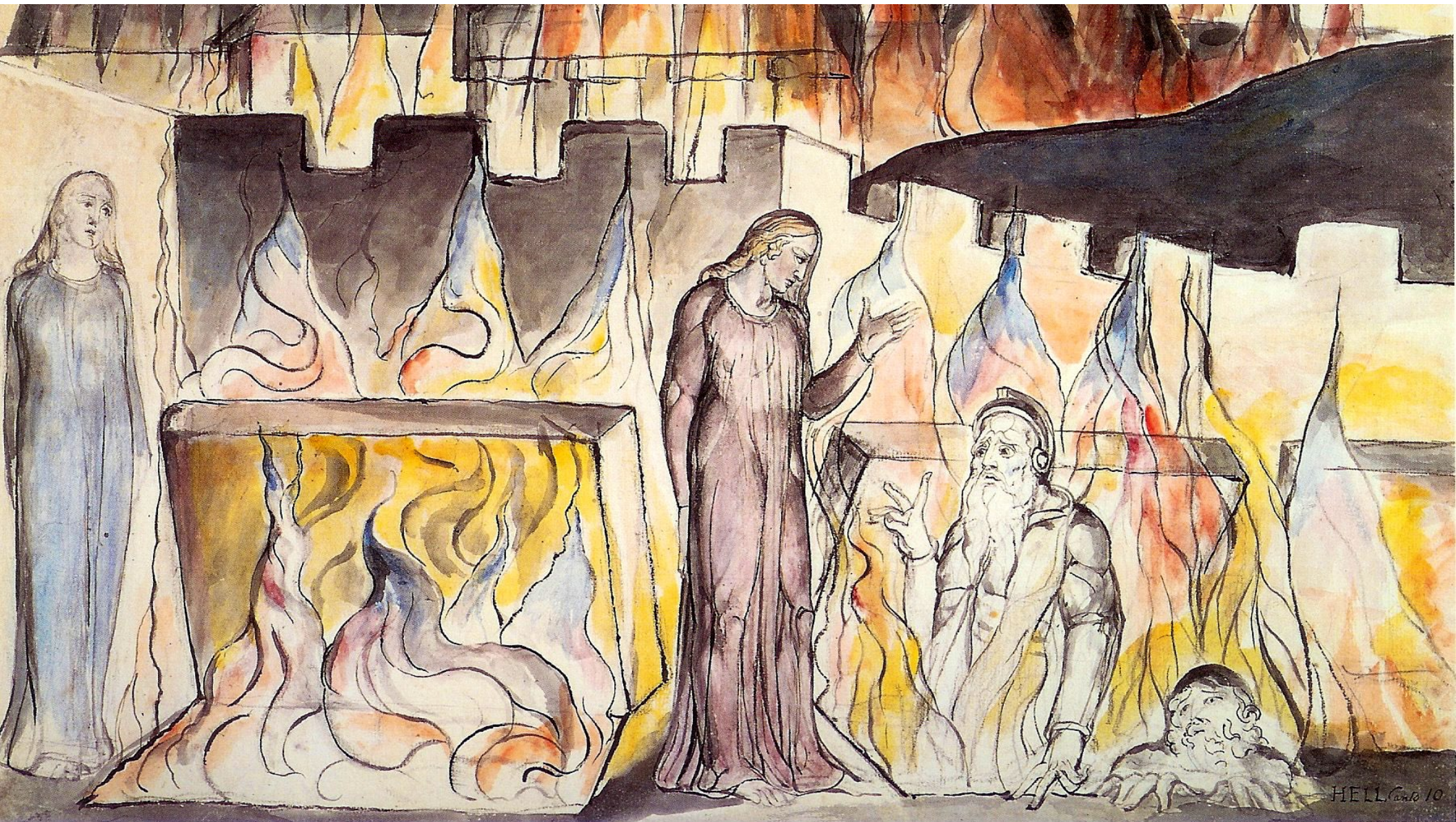


INFERNO X

- Farinata looks to the past (who were your ancestors?)
- Cavalcante looks to the present (where is my son?): the cruel temporality of Hell
- Farinata speaks of the future—in more than one way







HELL Cant. 10

INFERNO X

Within this region is the cemetery
of Epicurus and his followers,
all those who say the soul dies with the body.

And so the question you have asked of me
will soon find satisfaction while we're here,
as will the longing you have hid from me."

INFERNO X

When I'd drawn closer to his sepulcher,
he glanced at me, and as if in disdain,
he asked of me: "Who were your (*tui*) ancestors?"
Because I wanted so to be compliant,
I hid no thing from him: I told him all.
At this he lifted up his brows a bit,
then said: "They were ferocious enemies
of mine and of my parents and my party,
so that I had to scatter them twice over."
"If they were driven out," I answered him,
"they still returned, both times, from every quarter;
but yours (*vostri*) were never quick to learn that art."

INFERNO X

[Cavalcante said] in tears: "If it is your high intellect that lets you journey here, through this blind prison, where is my son? Why is he not with you?"

I answered: "My own powers have not brought me; he who awaits me there, leads me through here perhaps to one your (*vostro*) Guido did disdain."

Then suddenly erect, he cried: "What's that: He '*did* disdain (*ebbe a disdegno*)'? He is not still alive? The sweet light does not strike against his eyes?"

INFERN O X

"Ah, as I hope your seed may yet find peace,"
I asked, "so may you help me to undo
the knot that here has snarled my course of thought.

It seems, if I hear right, that you can see
beforehand that which time is carrying,
but you're denied the sight of present things."

INFERN O X

"We see, even as men who are farsighted, those things," he said, "that are remote from us; the Highest Lord allots us that much light.

But when events draw near or are, our minds are useless; were we not informed by others, we should know nothing of your human state.

So you can understand how our awareness will die completely at the moment when the portal of the future has been shut."



INFERNO XIII

- The wood of suicides
- Why is suicide a sin?
- Pier della Vigna



INFERNO XIII

From every side I heard the sound of cries,
but I could not see any source for them,
so that, in my bewilderment, I stopped.

I think that he was thinking that I thought
so many voices moaned among those trunks
from people who had been concealed from us.

Therefore my master said: "If you would tear
a little twig from any of these plants,
the thoughts you have will also be cut off."



INFERNO XIII

As from a sapling log that catches fire
along one of its ends, while at the other
it drips and hisses with escaping vapor,

so from that broken stump issued together
both words and blood; at which I let the branch
fall, and I stood like one who is afraid.

INFERNO XIII

“When the savage spirit quits
the body from which it has torn itself,
then Minos sends it to the seventh maw.
It falls into the wood, and there’s no place
to which it is allotted, but wherever
fortune has flung that soul, that is the space
where, even as a grain of spelt, it sprouts.”

INFERNO XIII

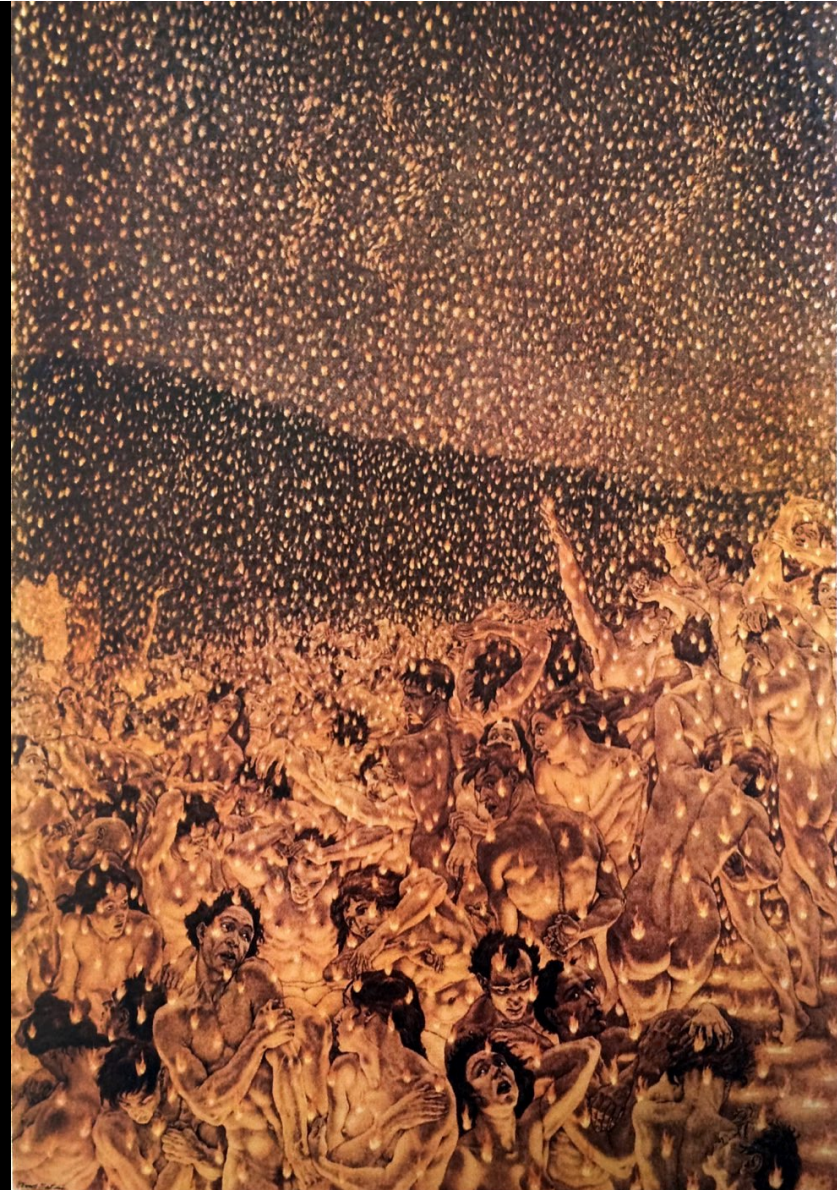
"It rises as a sapling, a wild plant;
and then the Harpies, feeding on its leaves,
cause pain and for that pain provide a vent.

Like other souls, we shall seek out the flesh
that we have left, but none of us shall wear it;
it is not right for any man to have

what he himself has cast aside. We'll drag
our bodies here; they'll hang in this sad wood,
each on the stump of its vindictive shade."

INFERNO XV

- The violent against God
- Zone 1: Sodomy
- 12th and 13th centuries saw growing hatred of "sodomites;" understood as "a sin against nature" (procreation)
- Brunetto Latini: how to explain Dante's love and admiration?
 - Latini's good is simply overwhelming?
 - Sodomy (an act) vs. homosexuality (an orientation)?
 - An "evolution" in Dante's thinking?



INFERNO XV

...we came on a company of spirits
who made their way along the bank; and each
stared steadily at us, as in the dusk,

beneath the new moon, men look at each other.
They knit their brows and squinted at us—just
as an old tailor at his needle's eye.

And when that family looked harder, I
was recognized by one, who took me by
the hem and cried out: "This is marvelous!"

INFERNO XV

I did not dare to leave my path for his
own level; but I walked with head bent low
as does a man who goes in reverence.

And he began: "What destiny or chance
has led you here below before your last
day came, and who is he who shows the way?"

"There, in the sunlit life above," I answered,
"before my years were full, I went astray
within a valley."

INFERNO XV

"If my desire were answered totally,"
I said to Ser Brunetto, "you'd still be
among, not banished from, humanity.

Within my memory is fixed—and now
moves me—your dear, your kind paternal image
when, in the world above, from time to time
you taught me how man makes himself eternal;
and while I live, my gratitude for that
must always be apparent in my words."

INFERNO XV

“Now people come with whom I must not be.
Let my *Tesoro*, in which I still live,
be precious to you; and I ask no more.”

And then he turned and seemed like one of those
who race across the fields to win the green
cloth at Verona; of those runners, he
appeared to be the winner, not the loser.

INFERNO XVI

- three eminent Florentines
- “I was there”
- the knotted cord as sign
- promise of amazement



INFERNO XVI

No sooner had I reached the place where one
could hear a murmur, like a beehive's hum,
of waters as they fell to the next circle,

when, setting out together, three shades ran,
leaving another company that passed
beneath the rain of bitter punishment.

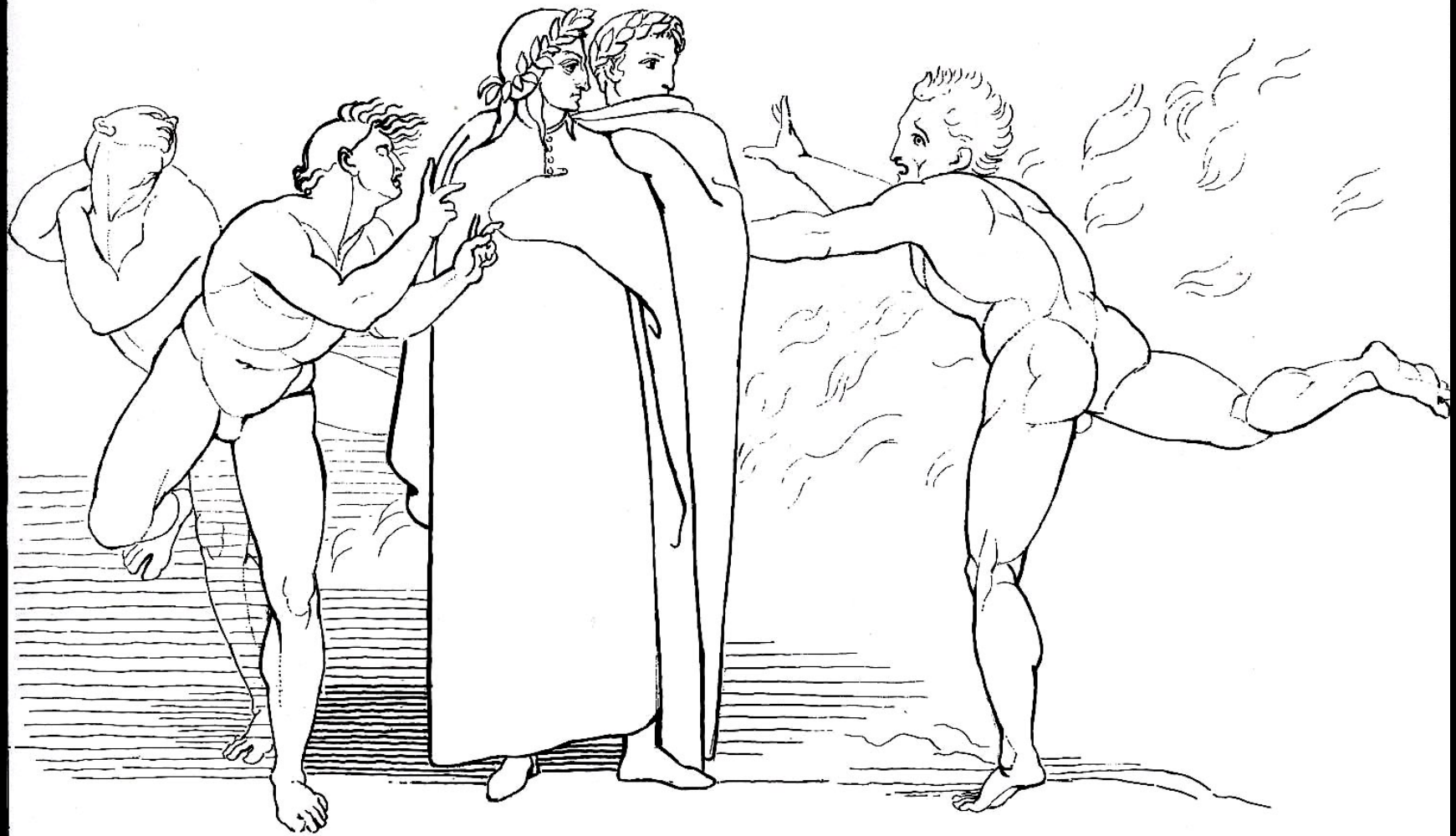
INFERNO XVI

As soon as we stood still, they started up
their ancient wail again; and when they reached us,
they formed a wheel, all three of them together.

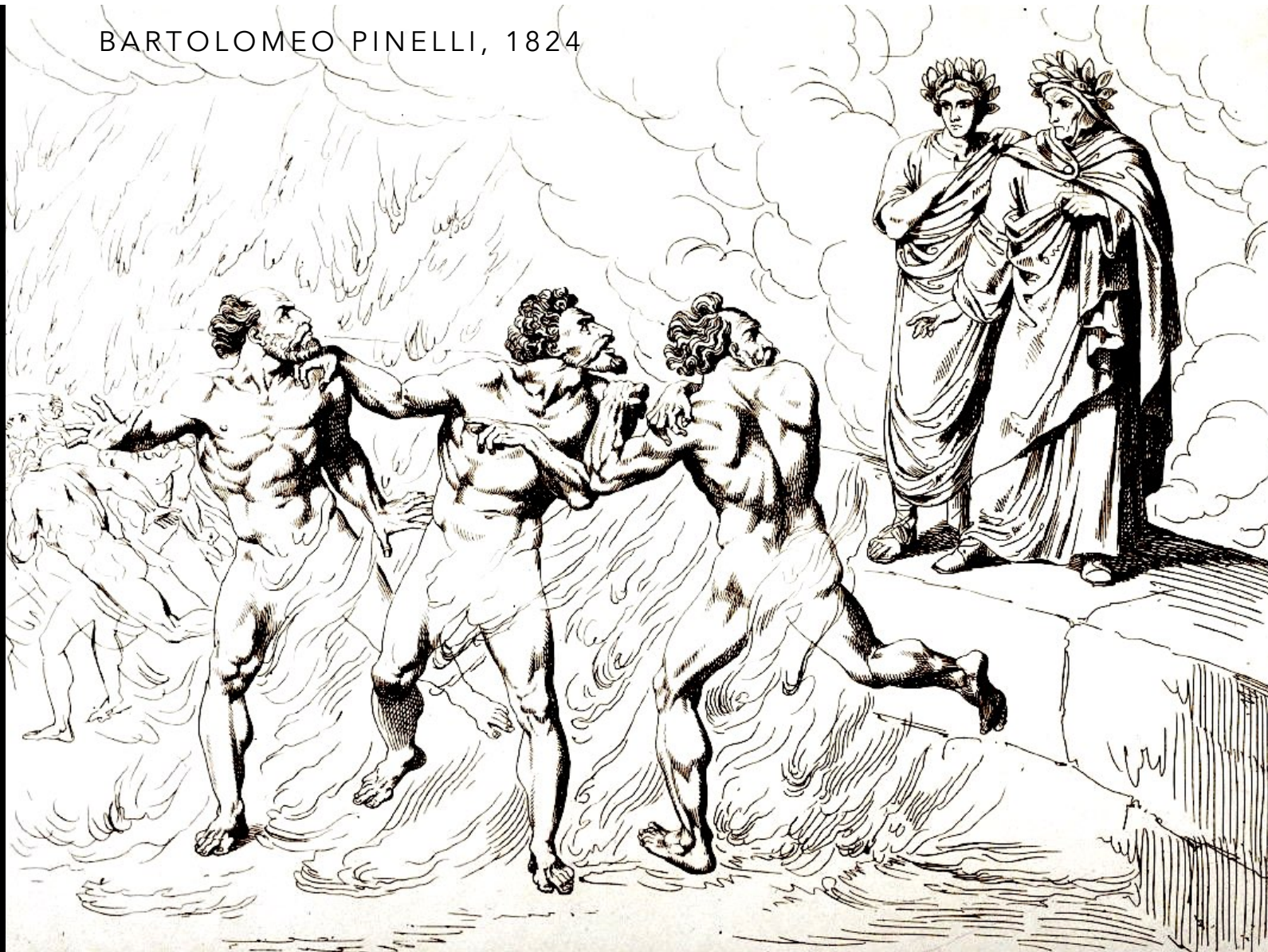
As champions, naked, oiled, will always do,
each studying the grip that serves him best
before the blows and wounds begin to fall,

while wheeling so, each one made sure his face
was turned to me, so that their necks opposed
their feet in one uninterrupted flow.

JOHN FLAXMAN, 1793



BARTOLOMEO PINELLI, 1824



INFERNO XVI

If I'd had shield and shelter from the fire,
I should have thrown myself down there among them—
I think my master would have sanctioned that;

but since that would have left me burned and baked,
my fear won out against the good intention
that made me so impatient to embrace them.

INFERNO XVI

"...So, if you can escape these lands of darkness and see the lovely stars on your return, when you repeat with pleasure, 'I was there,'

be sure that you remember us to men."

At this they broke their wheel; and as they fled, their swift legs seemed to be no less than wings.

