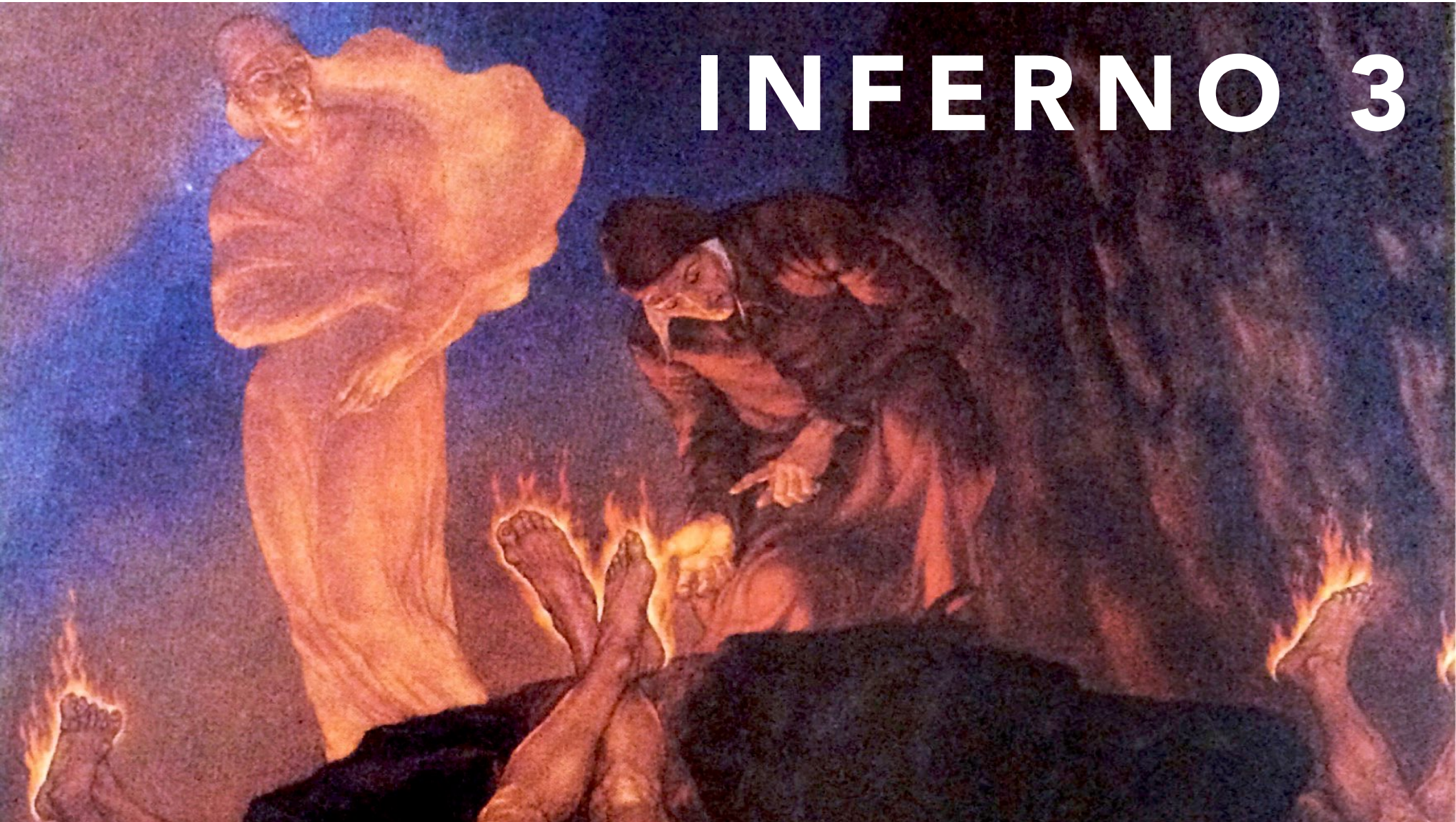
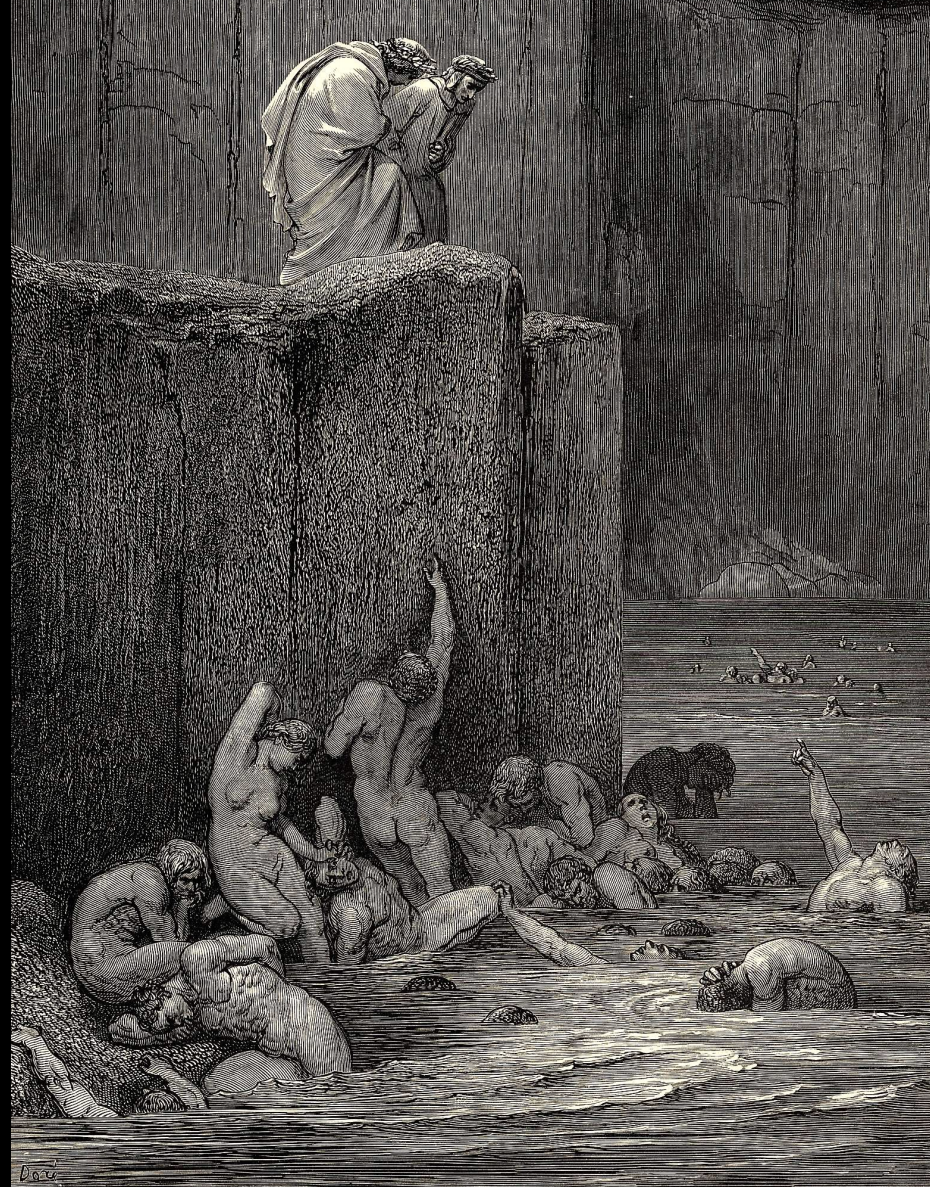


INFERNO 3



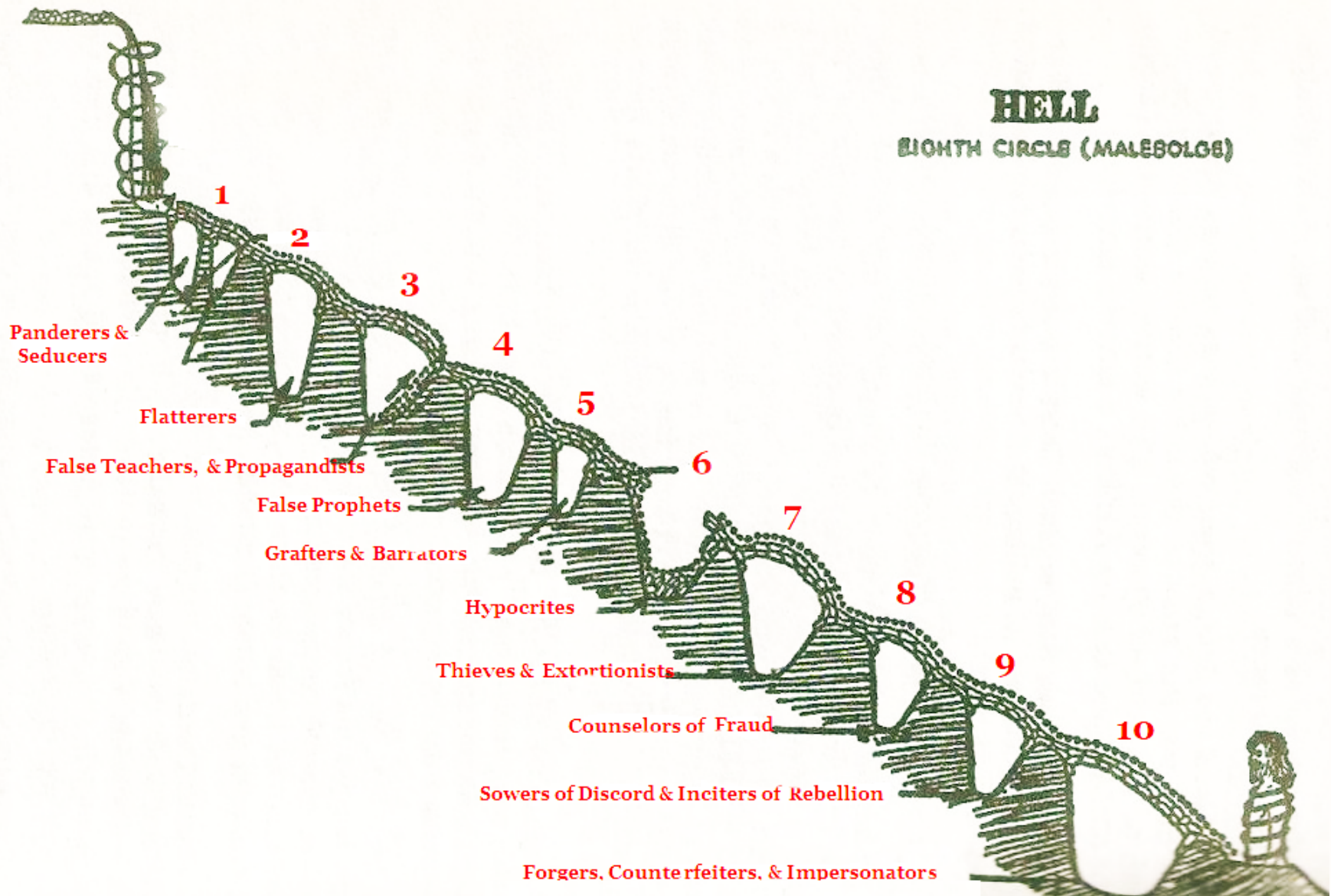
INFERNO XVIII

- Lower Hell: the Malebolge (evil pouches): exacting, physically realistic descriptions
- "classic" Hell: demons with horns and whips
- Panderers (pimps), seducers and flatterers
- Flattery: worse than murder. Why?
- How is the punishment for flattery an example of *contrapasso*?



HELL

EIGHTH CIRCLE (MALEBOLOS)



INFERNO XVIII: FLATTERY

This was the place we reached; the ditch beneath held people plunged in excrement that seemed as if it had been poured from human privies.

And while my eyes searched that abysmal sight,
I saw one with a head so smeared with shit,
one could not see if he were lay or cleric.

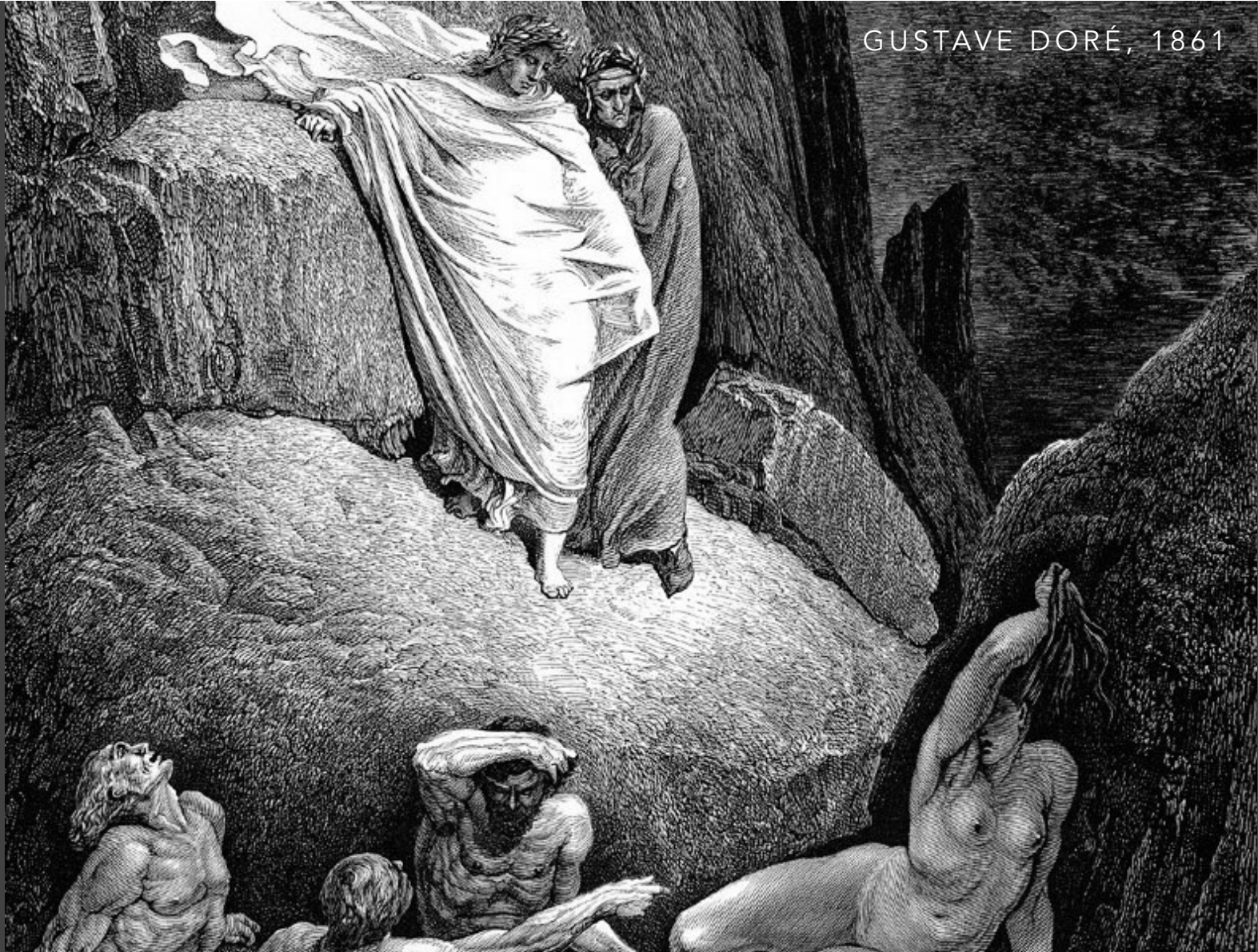
INFERNO XVIII: FLATTERY

He howled: "Why do you stare more greedily
at me than at the others who are filthy?"

And I: "Because, if I remember right,

I have seen you before, with your hair dry;
and so I eye you more than all: you are
Alessio Interminei of Lucca."

GUSTAVE DORÉ, 1861

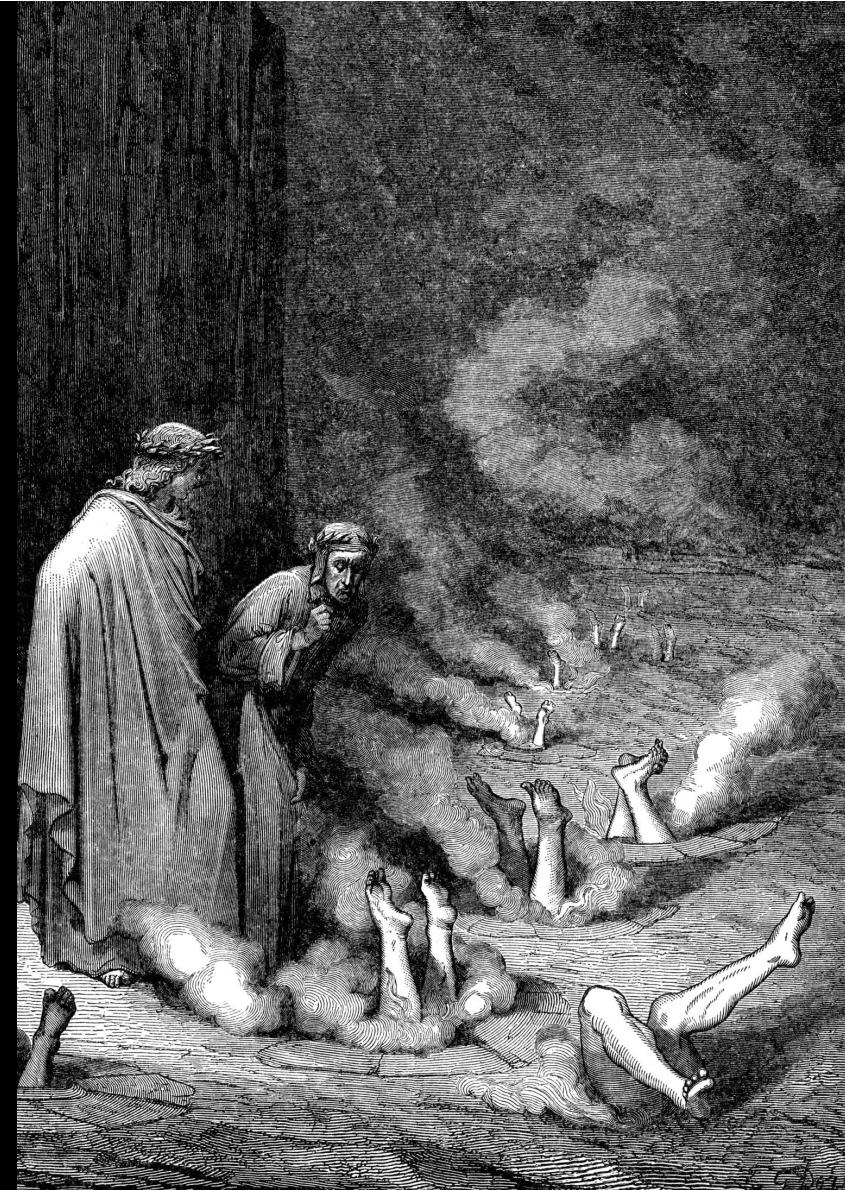




DANTE'S INFERNO, 1910

INFERNO XIX

- the sin of simony
- Peter to Simon: "take thy wealth with thee to perdition, (as if) God's free gift can be bought with money!" (Acts 8:18-20)
- Pope Nicholas III (1277-80), waiting for Boniface VIII
- *puttanneggiar*, literal pimping becomes metaphorical
- Clement V moves papacy to Avignon in 1314



INFERNO XIX

Along the sides and down along the bottom,
I saw that livid rock was perforated:
the openings were all one width and round.

They did not seem to me less broad or more
than those that in my handsome San Giovanni
were made to serve as basins for baptizing;
and one of these, not many years ago,
I broke for someone who was drowning in it:
and let this be my seal to set men straight.

INFERNO XIX

Out from the mouth of each hole there emerged
a sinner's feet and so much of his legs
up to the thigh; the rest remained within.

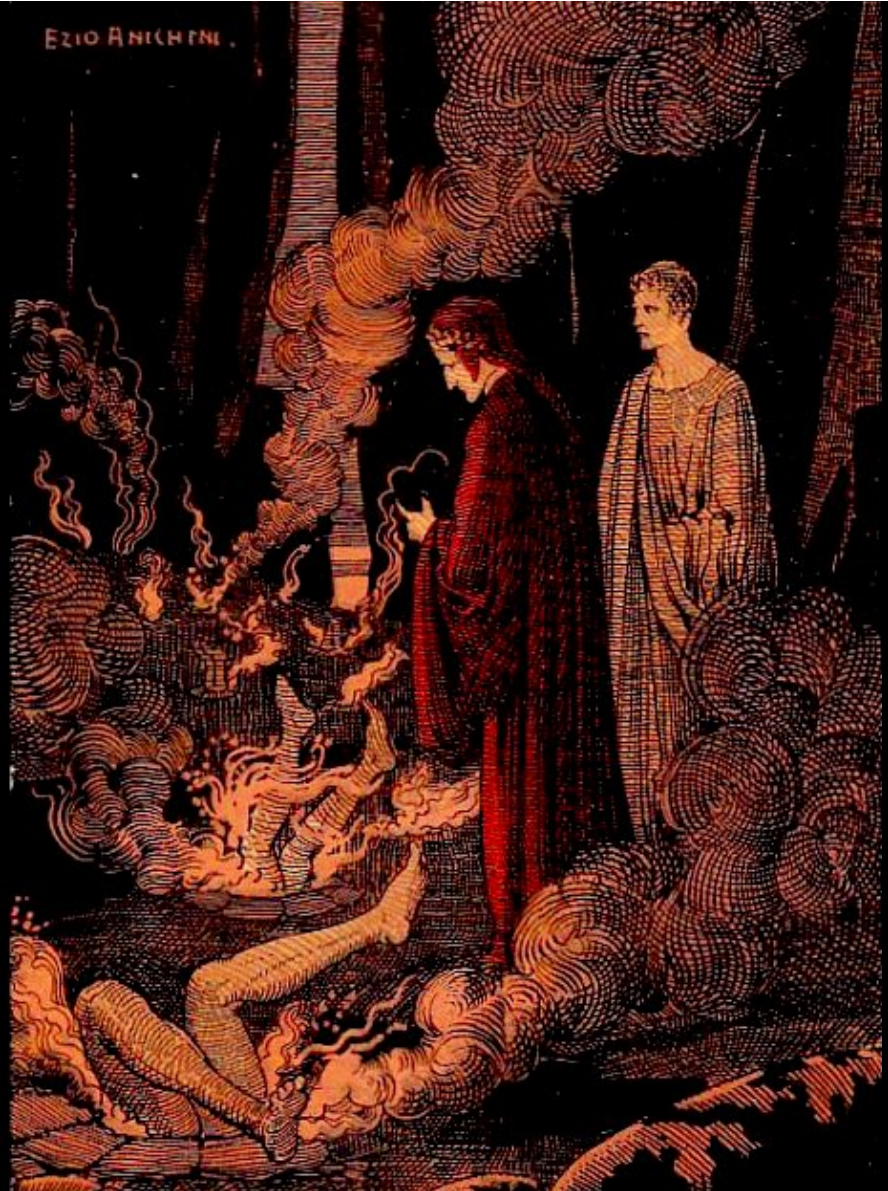
Both soles of every sinner were on fire;
their joints were writhing with such violence,
they would have severed withes and ropes of grass.

As flame on oily things will only stir
along the outer surface, so there, too,
that fire made its way from heels to toes.

WILLIAM BLAKE



EZIO ANISCHINI



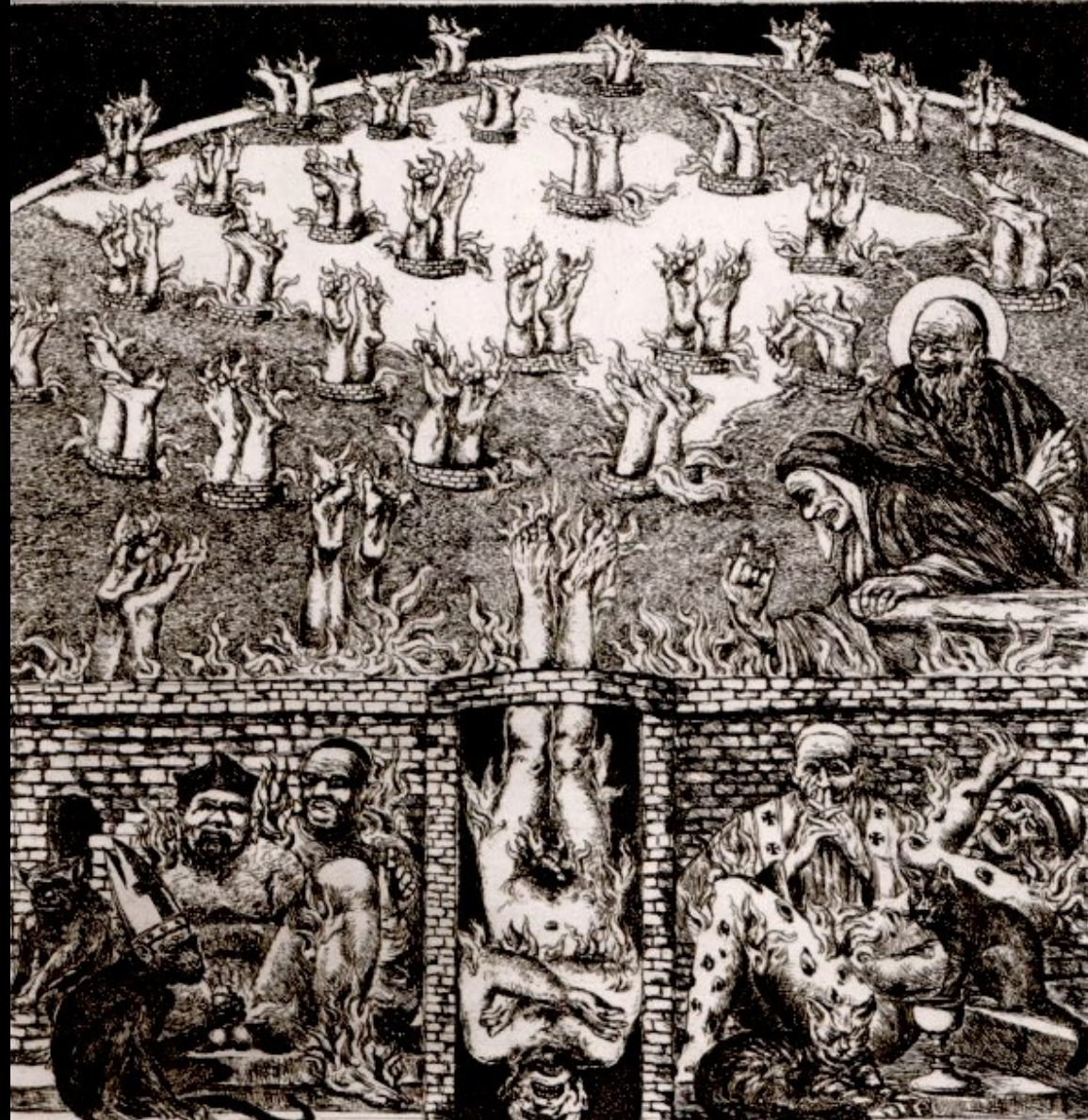
ENZO ANISCHINI

AMOS NATTINI



SALVADOR DALÌ





SANDOW BIRK



LAWRENCE EDWARD



ILYA SHANNIN

INFERNO XIX

“Whoever you may be, dejected soul,
whose head is downward, planted like a pole,”
my words began, “do speak if you are able.”

... and he cried out: “Are you already standing,
already standing there, O Boniface?”

The book has lied to me by several years.

INFERNO XIX

“Below my head there is the place of those
who took the way of simony before me;
and they are stuffed within the clefts of stone.

I, too, shall yield my place and fall below
when he arrives, the one for whom I had
mistaken you when I was quick to question.

But I have baked my feet a longer time,
have stood like this, upon my head, than he
is to stand planted here with scarlet feet.”

INFERNO XX

MICHAEL MAZUR

- the sin of divination
- fortune-tellers
- bodily distortion
- Contrapasso (ironic reversal)



INFERNO XX

...in the valley's circle I saw souls
advancing, mute and weeping, at the pace
that, in our world, holy processions take.

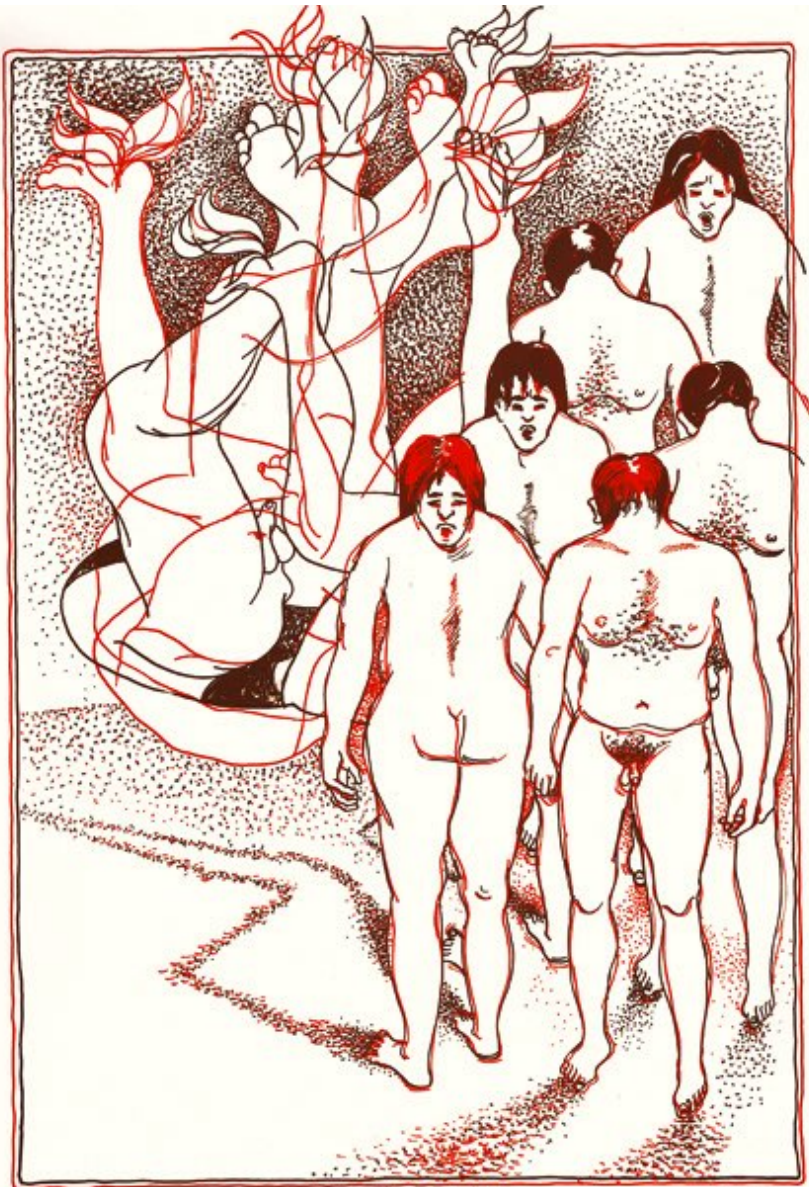
As I inclined my head still more, I saw
that each, amazingly, appeared contorted
between the chin and where the chest begins;
they had their faces twisted toward their haunches
and found it necessary to walk backward,
because they could not see ahead of them.

INFERNO XX

May God so let you, reader, gather fruit
from what you read; and now think for yourself
how I could ever keep my own face dry
when I beheld our image so nearby
and so awry that tears, down from the eyes,
bathed the buttocks, running down the cleft.
Of course I wept, leaning against a rock
along that rugged ridge, so that my guide
told me: "Are you as foolish as the rest?"



AMOS NATTINI



LIAM Ó BROIN

INFERNO XXI

- the sin of graft: an Italian institution!
- simony : graft :: church : state
- immersed in boiling tar, pitch (also pitch black)
- Malacoda and his troop
- bodily distortion, gender ambiguity



INFERNO XXI

As in the arsenal of the Venetians,
all winter long a stew of sticky pitch
boils up to patch their sick and tattered ships
that cannot sail (instead of voyaging,
some build new keels, some tow and tar the ribs
of hulls worn out by too much journeying;
some hammer at the prow, some at the stern,
and some make oars, and some braid ropes and cords;
one mends the jib, another, the mainsail)...

INFERNO XXI

...**so**, not by fire but by the art of God,
below there boiled a thick and tarry mass
that covered all the banks with clamminess.

AMOS NATTINI



INFERNO XXI

To us he said: "There is no use in going much farther on this ridge, because the sixth bridge—at the bottom there—is smashed to bits.

Yet if you two still want to go ahead, move up and walk along this rocky edge; nearby, another ridge will form a path.

Five hours from this hour yesterday, one thousand and two hundred sixty-six years passed since that roadway was shattered here."

INFERNO XXI

"Step forward, Alichino and Calcabrina,"
he then began to say, "and you, Cagnazzo;
and Barbariccia, who can lead the ten.

Let Libicocco go, and Draghignazzo
and tusky Ciriatto and Graffiacane
and Farfarello and mad Rubicante.

Search all around the clammy stew of pitch;
keep these two safe and sound till the next ridge
that rises without break across the dens."

INFERNO XXI

"Step forward, Harlequin and Frostcrusher,"
he then began to say, "and you, Uglydog;
and Curlybeard, who can lead the ten.

Let Hotwind go, and Dragonsneer,
and tusky Hogface and Dogscratcher
and Goblin and mad Blusher.

Search all around the clammy stew of pitch;
keep these two safe and sound... **till** the next ridge
that rises without break across the dens."

INFERNO XXI

And he [Virgil] to me: "I do not want you frightened:
just let them gnash away as they may wish;
they do it for the wretches boiled in pitch."

They turned around along the left hand bank:
but first each pressed his tongue between his teeth
as signal for their leader, Barbariccia.

And he had made a trumpet of his ass.

INFERNO XXII

Before this I've seen horsemen start to march
and open the assault and muster ranks
and seen them, too, at times beat their retreat;
and on your land, o Aretines [Arezzo], I've seen
rangers and raiding parties galloping,
the clash of tournaments, the rush of jousts,
now done with trumpets, now with bells, and now
with drums, and now with signs from castle walls,
with native things and with imported ware;
but never yet have I seen horsemen or
seen infantry or ship that sails by signal
of land or star move to so strange a bugle!

INFERNO XXIV

- the climb, and an extended analogy
- Snakes and transformations



INFERNO XXIV

In that part of the young year when the sun
begins to warm its locks beneath Aquarius
and nights grow shorter, equaling the days,
when hoarfrost mimes the image of his white
sister upon the ground—but not for long,
because the pen he uses is not sharp—
the farmer who is short of fodder rises
and looks and sees the fields all white, at which
he slaps his thigh, turns back into the house...

INFERNO XXIV

...and here and there complains like some poor wretch
who doesn't know what can be done, and then
goes out again and gathers up new hope
on seeing that the world has changed its face
in so few hours, and he takes his staff
and hurries out his flock of sheep to pasture...

INFERNO XXIV

...so did my master fill me with dismay
when I saw how his brow was deeply troubled,
yet then the plaster soothed the sore as quickly:

for soon as we were on the broken bridge,
my guide turned back to me with that sweet manner
I first had seen along the mountain's base.



BARTOLOMEO PINELLI,
1825

Pinelli, inv. e inc. / Cosa, levando me su per la cima / 68' un vecchio cantare un' altra s'haia. Carta XVI. Inf. di Tur. / Roma 1825

INFERNO XXIV

Their hands were tied behind by serpents; these had thrust their head and tail right through the loins, and then were knotted on the other side.

And—there!—a serpent sprang with force at one who stood upon our shore, transfixing him just where the neck and shoulders form a knot.

BARTOLOMEO PINELLI,
1825



Pinelli sculp. e inc.

*Con la spiga la man destra avean legate
 Quella scimmia per li tes su coda.
 E l capo, ed eran dinanzi appoggiate. Canto XXIV Inf. di Dante*

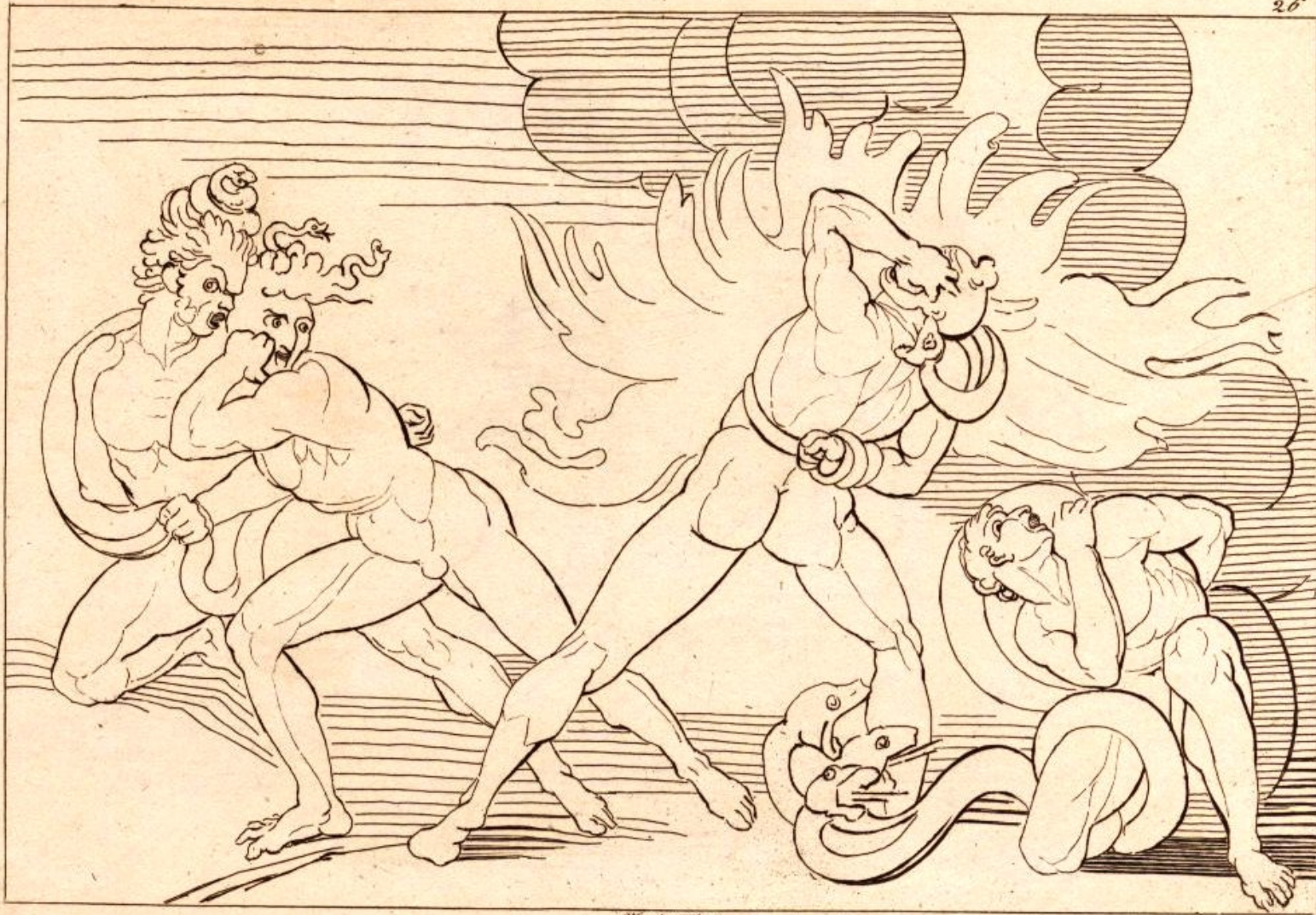
Heron del. sc.

INFERNO XXIV

No *o* or *i* has ever been transcribed
so quickly as that soul caught fire and burned
and, as he fell, completely turned to ashes;

and when he lay, undone, upon the ground,
the dust of him collected by itself
and instantly returned to what it was.

just so, it is asserted by great sages,
that, when it reaches its five-hundredth year,
the phoenix dies and then is born again.

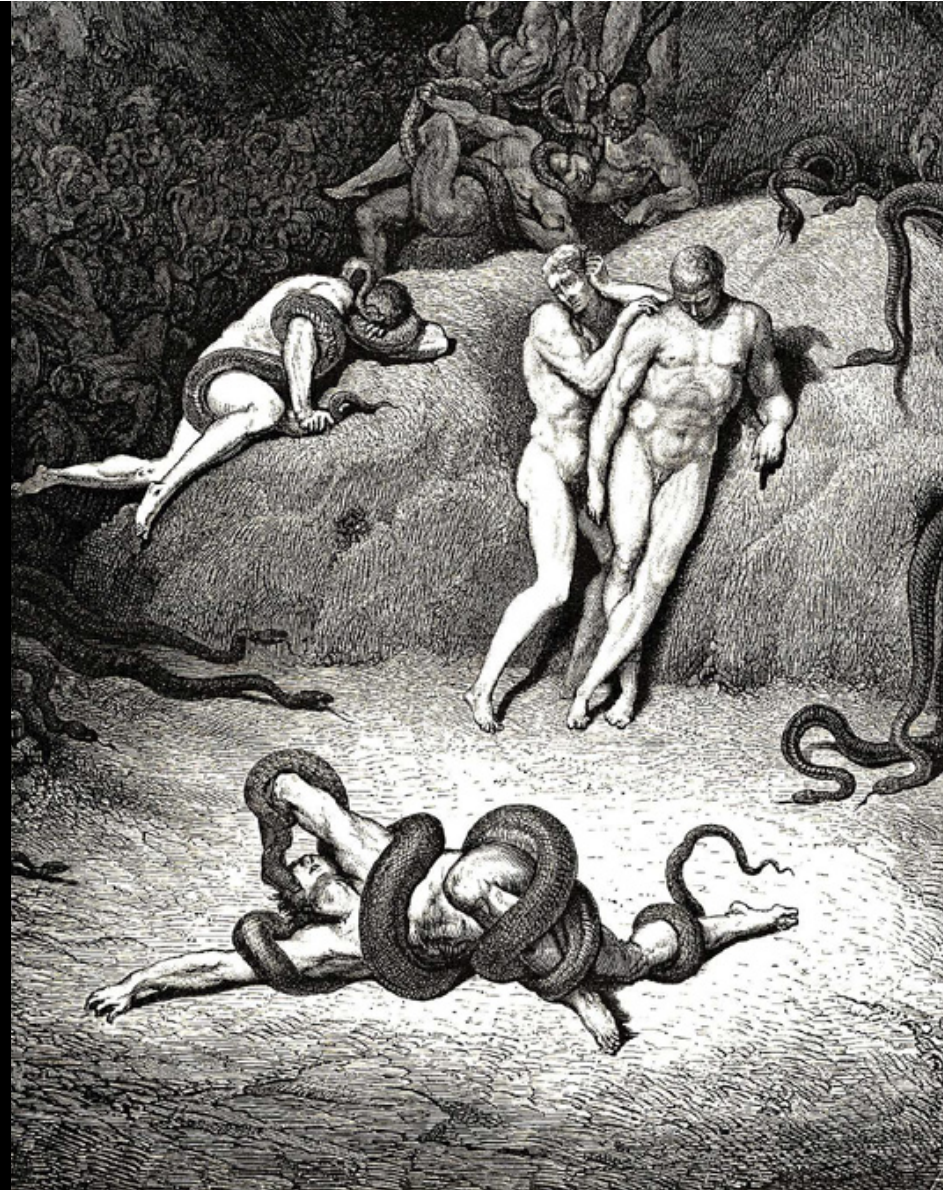


JOHN FLAXMAN, 1807

*Vanni. Facci
L'avventò un serpente che li trafisse
Là dove il collo a le spalle s'annoda.
Inferno Canto*

INFERNO XXV

- The sin of theft
- Vanni Fucci defies God
- The difference between vice and sin
- out-Oviding Ovid
- Monstrous, unnatural copulation



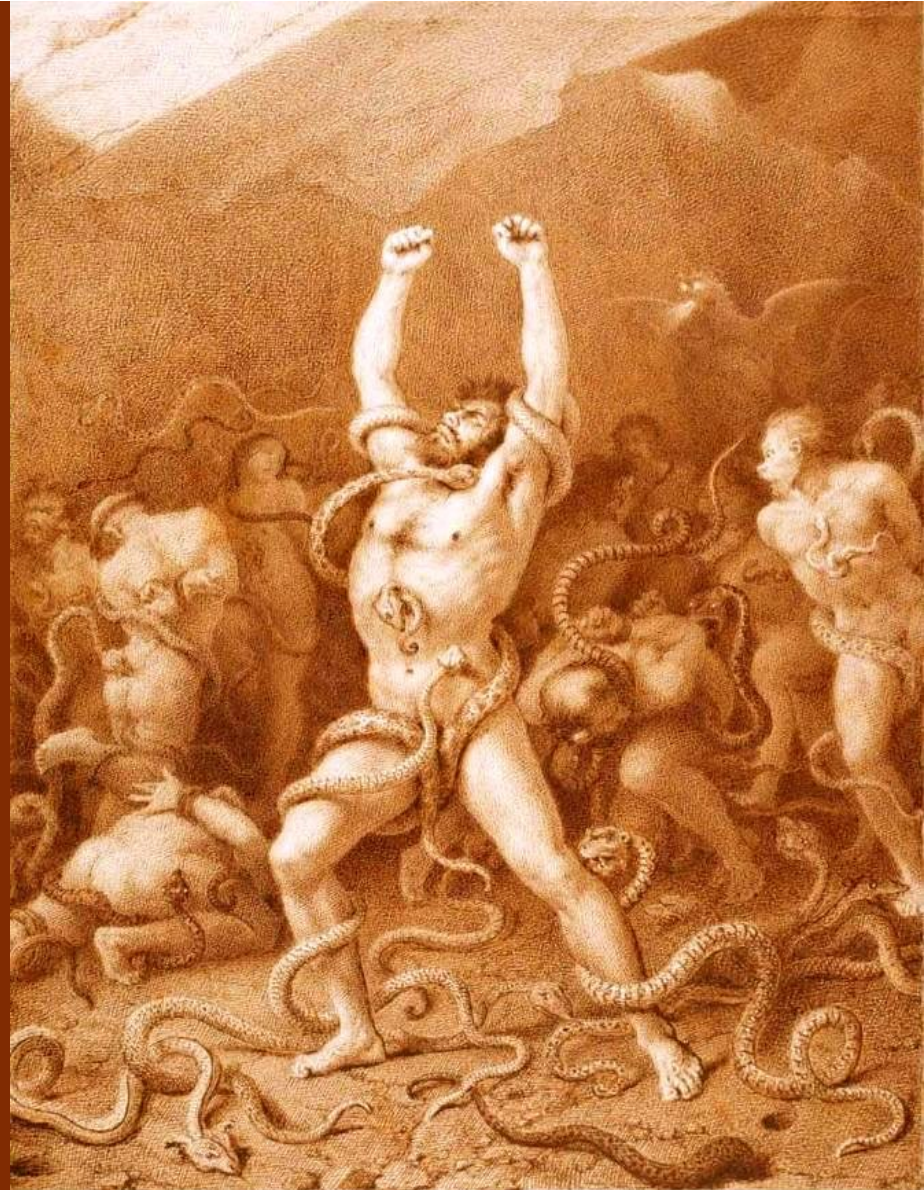
INFERNO XXV

When he had finished with his words, the thief
raised high his fists with both fists cocked and cried:
“Take that, o God; I square them off for you!”

From that time on, those serpents were my friends,
for one of them coiled then around his neck,
as if to say, “I’ll have you speak no more”;

Throughout the shadowed circles of deep Hell,
I saw no soul against God so rebel,
not even he who fell from Theban walls.

VANNI FUCCI & THE "FIGS"



WILLIAM BLAKE



INFERNO XXV

If, reader, you are slow now to believe
what I shall tell, that is no cause for wonder,
for I who saw it hardly can accept it.

As I kept my eyes fixed upon those sinners,
a serpent with six feet springs out against
one of the three, and clutches him completely.

It gripped his belly with its middle feet,
and with its forefeet grappled his two arms;
and then it sank its teeth in both his cheeks;

INFERNO XXV

Let Lucan now be silent, where he sings
of sad Sabellus and Nasidius,
and wait to hear what flies off from my bow.

Let Ovid now be silent, where he tells
of Cadmus, Arethusa; if his verse
has made of one a serpent, one a fountain,

I do not envy him; he never did
transmute two natures, face to face, so that
both forms were ready to exchange their matter.

INFERNO XXV

These were the ways they answered to each other:
the serpent split its tail into a fork;
the wounded sinner drew his steps together.

The legs and then the thighs along with them
so fastened to each other that the juncture
soon left no sign that was discernible.

Meanwhile the cleft tail took upon itself
the form the other gradually lost;
its skin grew soft, the other's skin grew hard.

BARTOLOMEO PINELLI,
1825



INFERNO XXV

These were the ways they answered to each other:
the serpent split its tail into a fork;
the wounded sinner drew his steps together.

The legs and then the thighs along with them
so fastened to each other that the juncture
soon left no sign that was discernible.

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the form the other gradually lost;
its skin grew soft, the other's skin grew hard.

INFERNO XXV

I saw the arms that drew in at his armpits
and also saw the monster's two short feet
grow long for just as much as those were shortened.

The serpent's hind feet, twisted up together,
became the member that man hides; just as
the wretch put out two hind paws from his member.