

And after I had loosened it completely,

just as my guide commanded me to do,

I handed it to him, knotted and coiled.

At this, he wheeled around upon his right
and cast it, at some distance from the edge,

straight down into the depth of the ravine.

"And surely something strange must here reply,"

I said within myself, "to this strange sign—
the sign my master follows with his eye."

Ah, how much care men ought to exercise
with those whose penetrating intellect

can see our thoughts—not just our outer act!

He said to me: "Now there will soon emerge
what I await and what your thought has conjured:
it soon must be discovered to your sight."

Faced with that truth which seems a lie, a man
should always close his lips as long as he can—
to tell it shames him, even though he's blameless;

but here I can't be still; and by the lines
of this my Comedy, reader, I swear—
and may my verse find favor for long years—

that through the dense and darkened air I saw
a figure swimming, rising up, enough
to bring amazement to the firmest heart,

like one returning from the waves where he
went down to loose an anchor snagged upon
a reef or something else hid in the sea,

who stretches upward and draws in his feet.

Card, while Dante wanted extra
to cap the leopard with.
Greyson reminds of leopard

Usually have been going left;
Dante's descent works leftward.
Symbolizes the sideways and backward
nature of fraud

Did anyone in Homer/Virgil come
from the left, as fighting with
above water, but
not here.

Topical, considering the
sin of lecherous fraud;
should everyone have this power,
Greyson would be powerless.
Why Greyson is relevant
to Virgil.

If Dante is actually lying
about his Inferno was
a literal experience, not
that fraud?
If he got here, isn't that
going to be material benefit
off of a lie?

Gives picture of Greyson rising from
the depths, first shadowing
descent back down
into hell.

Usage of anchor, snagged
involves thoughts of drowning,
despair and sinking almost at all.

→ Interpretation / Mrs. Darcil

→ Marking style choices / Formal choices
and language choices / Formal choices

Usage of
snake on c-
with function

Must also exercise
one with those
who can see intentions
which is key to
fraudsters; he can
lie.
Does this you
also address
the reader, or
a parallel to
a few lines
later?

Imagery of
sea/water
while in
literal hell.
Departure from
agony, loud and
red. → Maybe
that fraud is
deceitful and runs
counter to
appearances?

The monster Geryon. The Seventh Circle, Third Ring, Third Zone: the Violent against Nature and Art (Usurers), each seated beneath the rain of fire with a purse—bearing his family's heraldic emblem—around his neck. Descent to the Eighth Circle on the back of Geryon.

This opening is reminiscent of the epic style of Homer and Virgil, with the long pronouns of epic diction and large epithets. Fitting since it is Virgil's specialty

Behold the beast who bears the pointed tail, who crosses mountains, shatters weapons, walls! Behold the one whose stench fills all the world!

Periphrasis

So did my guide begin to speak to me, and then he signaled him to come ashore close to the end of those stone passageways.

Gives scale to Geryon, personification of sin

And he came on, that filthy effigy of fraud, and landed with his head and torso but did not draw his tail onto the bank.

Geryon was originally 3-headed and 3-bodied.

Human face to fraud, hiding monster underneath.

The face he wore was that of a just man, so gracious was his features' outer semblance; and all his trunk, the body of a serpent;

Underscores human nature of fraud, and that Hell is a punishment for men.

he had two paws, with hair up to the armpits;

Recall snake imagery. Lion from beginning, perhaps?

his back and chest as well as both his flanks had been adorned with twining knots and circlets.

Leopard from beginning.

No Turks or Tartars ever fashioned fabrics more colorful in background and relief, nor had Arachne ever loomed such webs.

Notes say this is need to be sign of lust, let elsewhere clues to be revealed on fraud?

As boats will sometimes lie along the shore, with part of them on land and part in water, and just as there, among the guzzling Germans, the beaver sets himself when he means war, so did that squalid beast lie on the margin of stone that serves as border for the sand.

More imagery of water, as started on last page

And all his tail was quivering in the void while twisting upward its envenomed fork, which had a tip just like a scorpion's.

Beaver believed to attract fish before capturing them

My guide said: "Now we'd better bend our path a little, till we reach as far as that malicious beast which crouches over there."

Progression is decidedly male like Dante.

No direct mention

Geryon's name, leading an ominous and heavy air to his introduction.

Human parts visible, monster parts not so much. Same as fraud as a snail!

3-bodied as Geryon with one now transformed to 3 heads: man, lion (leopard), and reptile.

What is the role of Geryon? Belong to Dante?

Geryon is heavily modified but many other ones are not, such as Archimede.

References to foreign cultures. Note necessarily negative, however!