

Working with Words

Word: “Perdition.” Context: “The dire spectacle of the wrack, which touched \ The very virtue of compassion in thee, \ I have with such provision in mine art \ So safely ordered that there is no soul -- \ No, not so much perdition as an hair \ Betid to any creature in the vessel \ Which thou heard’st cry, which thou saw’st sink.” (Shakespeare, 1.2.27-32)

- Merriam Webster dictionary definition:
 1. a) (archaic) : utter destruction; b) (obsolete) : loss
 2. a) : eternal damnation; b) : hell
- OED etymology: < Anglo-Norman perdicium, perdicoun, perdition, Anglo-Norman and Middle French perdition loss, ruin, (in religion) damnation (c1100 in Old French as perdicium ; French perdition) and its etymon post-classical Latin perdition-, perditio, ruin, loss, moral corruption, hell (Vetus Latina, Vulgate) < classical Latin perdit- , past participial stem of perdere to make away with, destroy, lose (< per- per- prefix + dare to give, put: see datum n.) + -iō -ion suffix¹. Compare Old Occitan perdicio (a1150; Occitan perdition), Catalan perdicció (c1200), Spanish perdicción (first half of the 13th cent.), Italian perdizione ruin (a1294–6), damnation (1305).
- OED definitions:
 1. a. The fact or condition of being destroyed or ruined; utter destruction, complete ruin.; b. Chiefly rhetorical. Loss; diminution; degradation. Obsolete.; c. A thing which causes destruction; the ruin of something. Obsolete. rare.
 2. Theology. The state of final spiritual ruin or damnation; the consignment of the unredeemed or wicked and impenitent soul to hell; the fate of those in hell; eternal death.; b. The place of destruction or damnation; hell.; c. son of perdition n. an

