



## POPULATIONS

Souls

Denizens

Dante & Virgil

The Neutrals | The Virtuous & Unbaptized | The Lustful | The Gluttonous | The Avaricious & Prodigal | The Angry & Sullen |

And I, my gaze transfixed, could see  
people with angry faces in that bog,  
naked, their bodies smeared with mud.

They struck each other with their hands,  
their heads, their chests and feet,  
and tore each other with their teeth.

The good master said: 'Son, now you see  
the souls of those whom anger overcame.  
And I would have you know for certain

'that plunged beneath these waters,  
as your eyes will tell you, are souls whose sighs  
with bubbles make the water's surface seethe.

'Fixed in the slime they say: "We were sullen  
in the sweet air that in the sun rejoices,  
filled as we were with slothful fumes.

"Now we are sullen in black mire."  
This hymn they gurgle in their gullets,  
for they cannot get a word out whole.'

CANTO 7.II. 109-126 **INFERNO**