

Inferno: III-V, XI

24 February 2020

The Divine Comedy - Italian

- Rhyme Scheme: Terza rima

- an arrangement of triplets that rhyme *aba bcb cdc*

Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita / A
mi ritrovai per una selva oscura, / B
che la diritta via era smarrita. / A

Ahi quanto a dir qual era è cosa dura / B
esta selva selvaggia e aspra e forte / C
che nel pensier rinova la paura! / B

Tant' è amara che poco è più morte; / C
ma per trattar del ben ch'i' vi trovai, / D
dirò de l'altre cose ch'i' v'ho scorte. /C

Io non so ben ridir com' i' v'intrai, / D
tant' era pien di sonno a quel punto / E
che la verace via abbandonai. / D

The Divine Comedy - Italian

- Meter: Hendecasyllable
 - The hendecasyllable is the principal meter in Italian poetry. Its defining feature is a constant stress on the tenth syllable
 - It does not always have 11 syllables total, as the name suggests, rather it may have as few as 10 or as many as 12 in many lines. Less commonly, it can have as many as 13 or even 16 syllables.

Nel – mez - zo – del – cam – *min* – di – nos – tra – vi - ta (major hendecasyllable)

Mi – ri – tro – *vai* - per - u – na - sel – va_ os – cu - ra, (minor hendecasyllable)

Che - la - di – *rit* - ta – vi - a – e - ra – smar – ri - ta.

Ahi – quan – to - a – dir – *qual* – e – ra - è – co – sa – du - ra

Es – ta – sel - va – sel – *vag* – gia - e asp - ra – e – for - te

che – nel – pens – ier – ri – *no* – va – la – pa – u - ra!

Tutto Dante

- [Roberto Benigni reading Canto 1, Inferno](#)

Inferno, Cantos 1 - 2

Where are we?

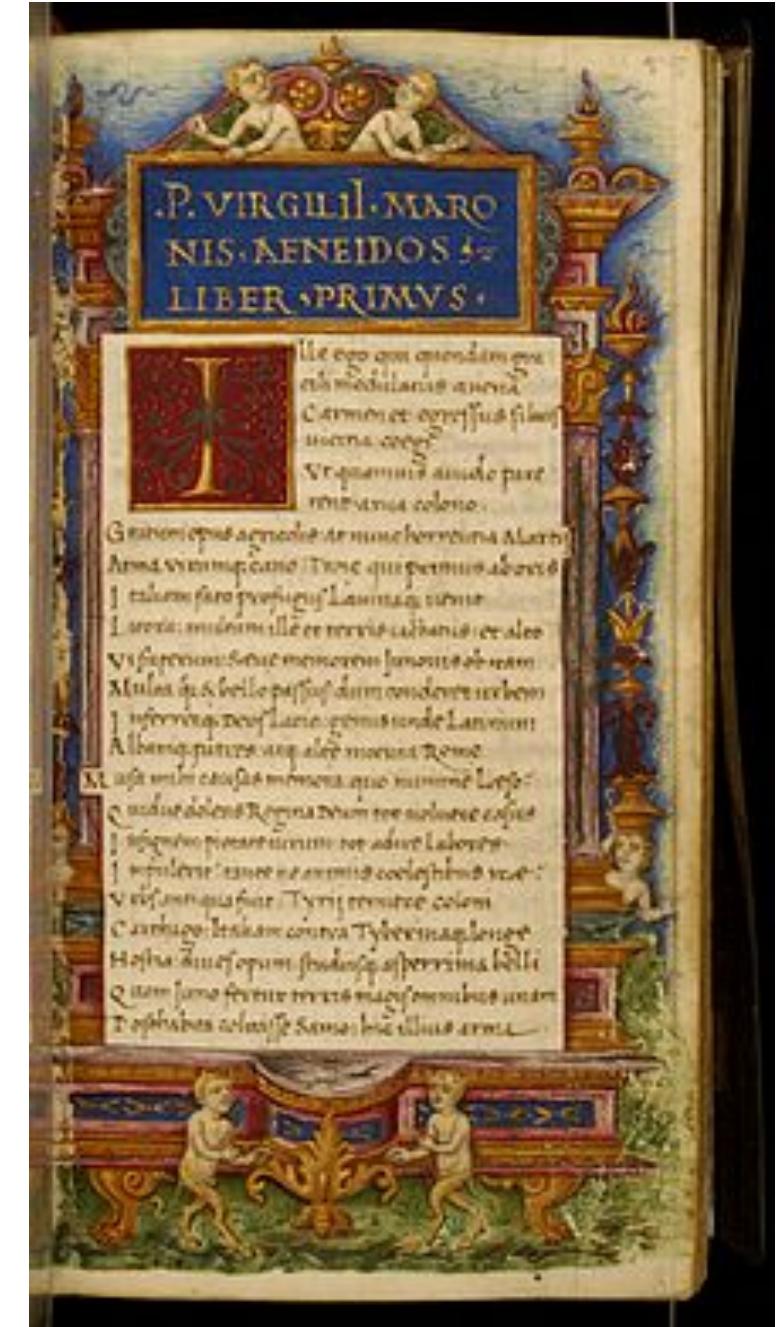
Who is the protagonist?

What is the action of the canto?



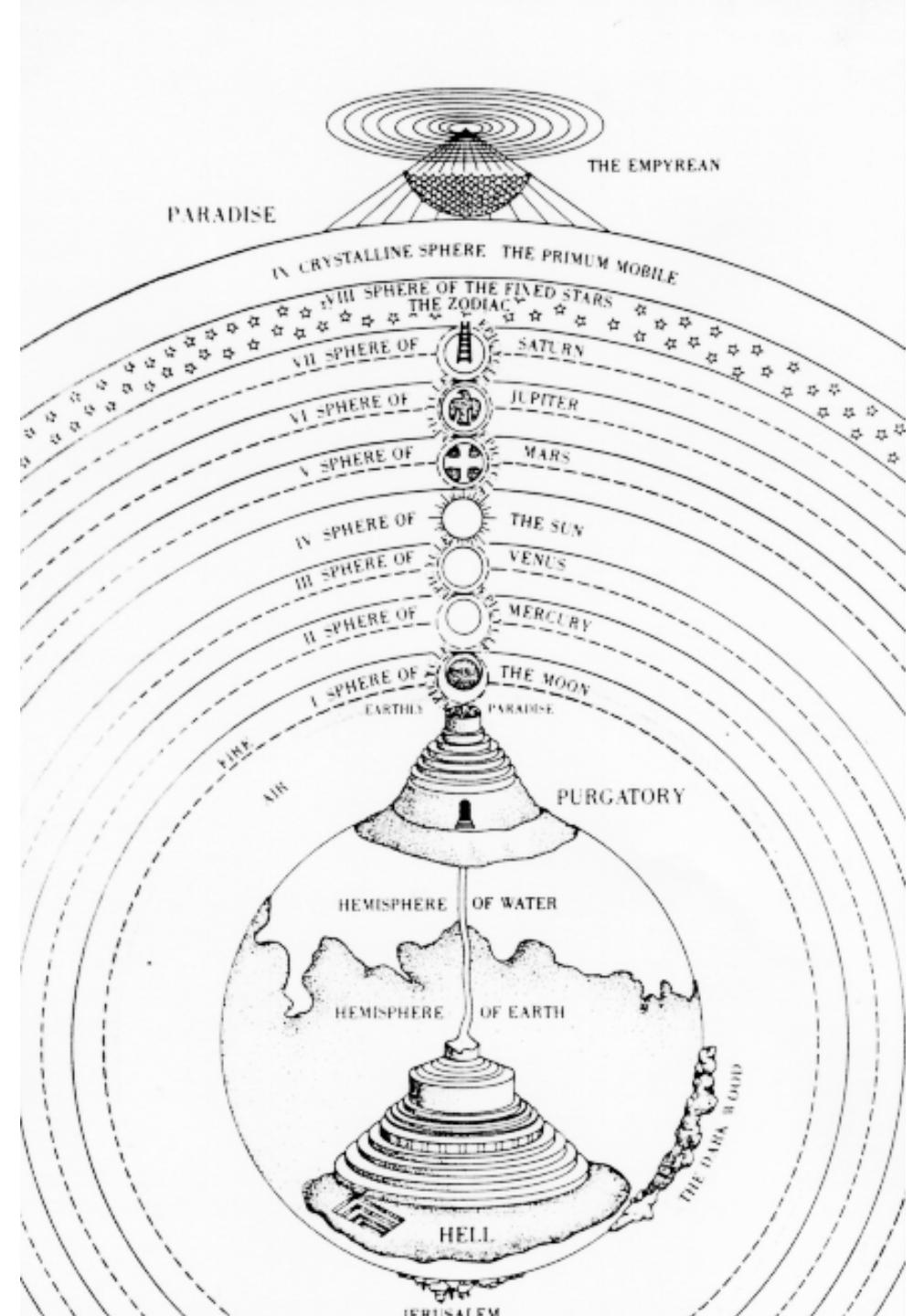
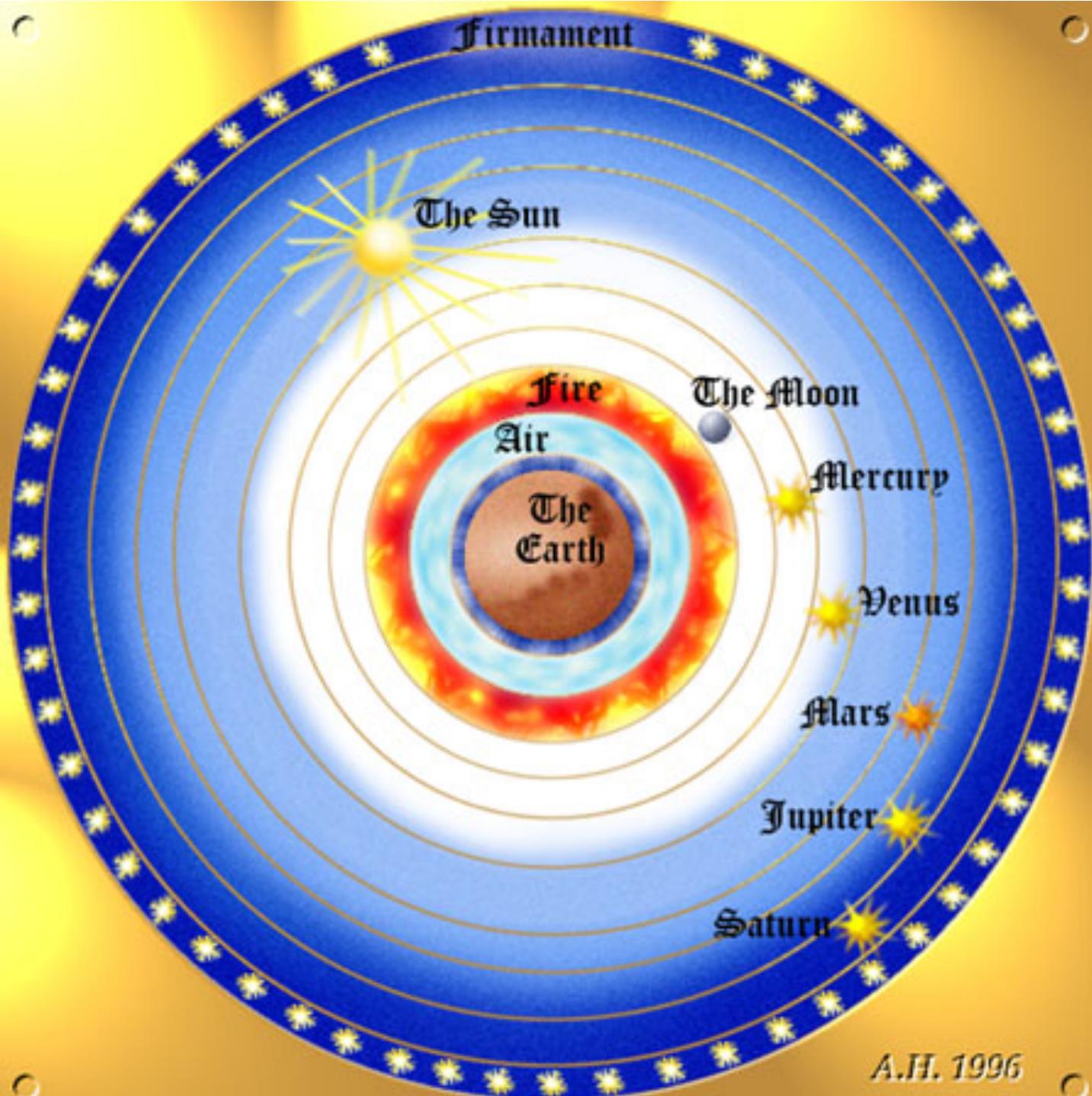
The Aeneid

- An epic poem much like Homer's *Odyssey* and *Iliad* (set during the Trojan War), but crucially is not Greek
- Written by Vergil in Rome in Latin between 29-19 BCE
- Tells of Aeneas after the fall of Troy and the founding of Rome

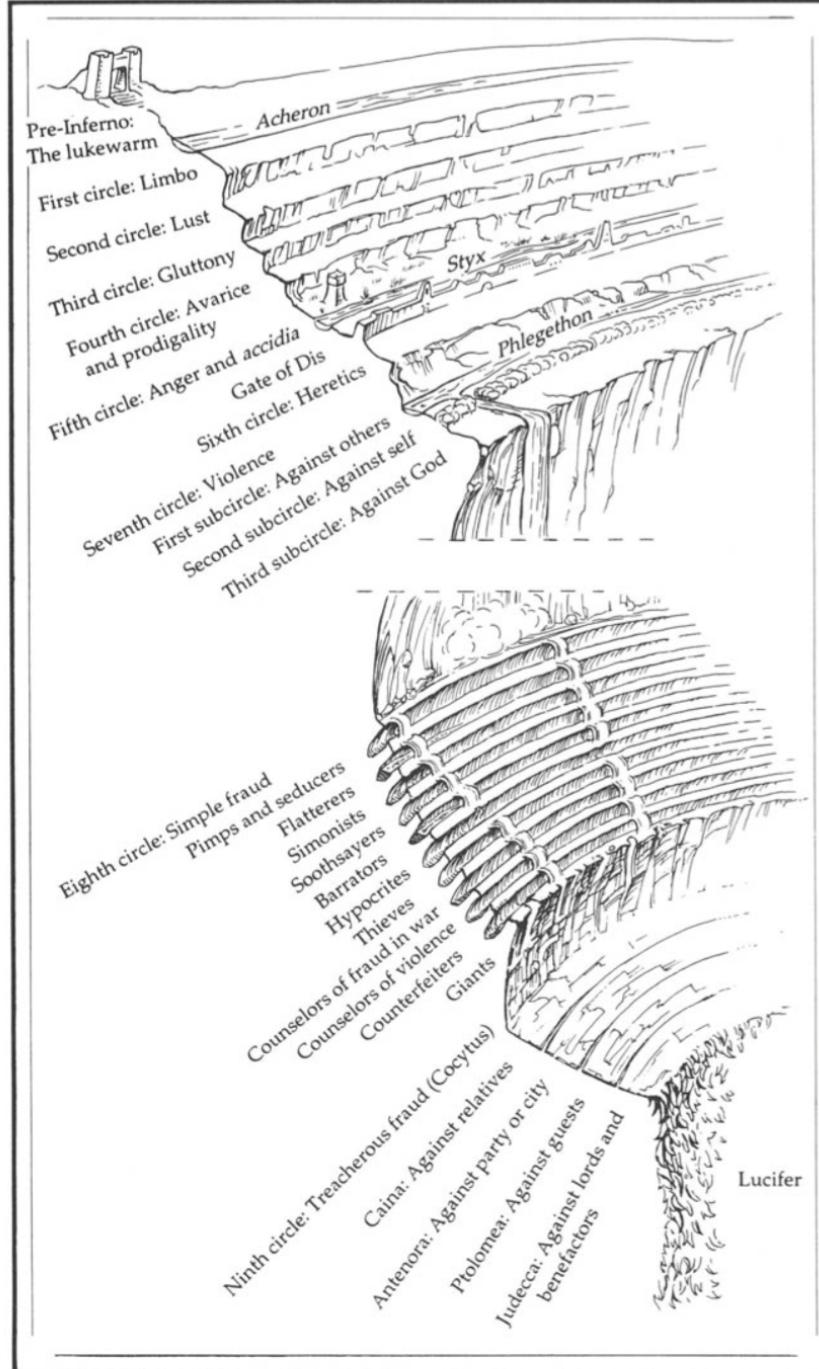
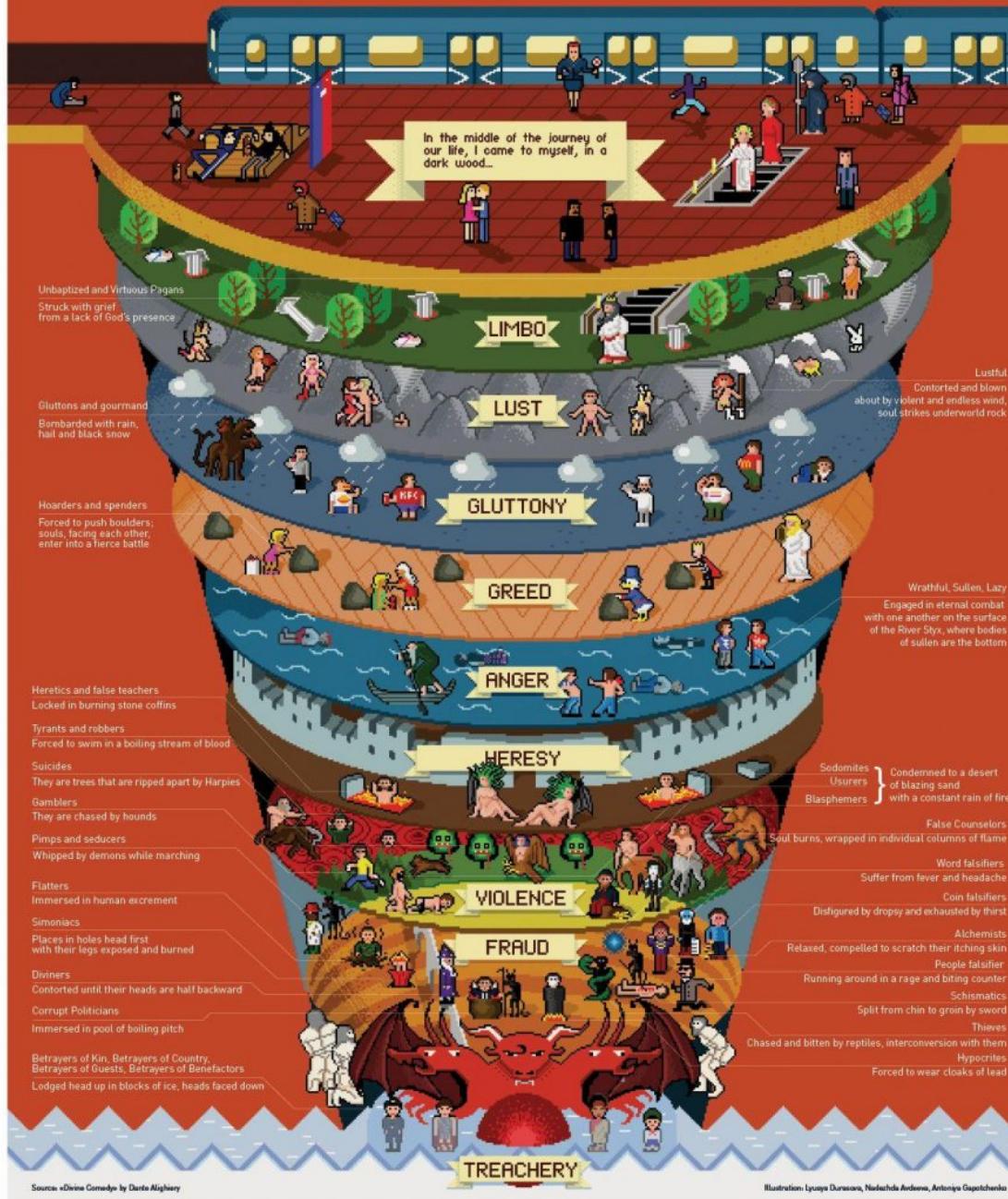


Divine Comedy

- What is a comedy?
- Why is this a comedy?



CIRCLES OF HELL IN DANTE'S INFERNO



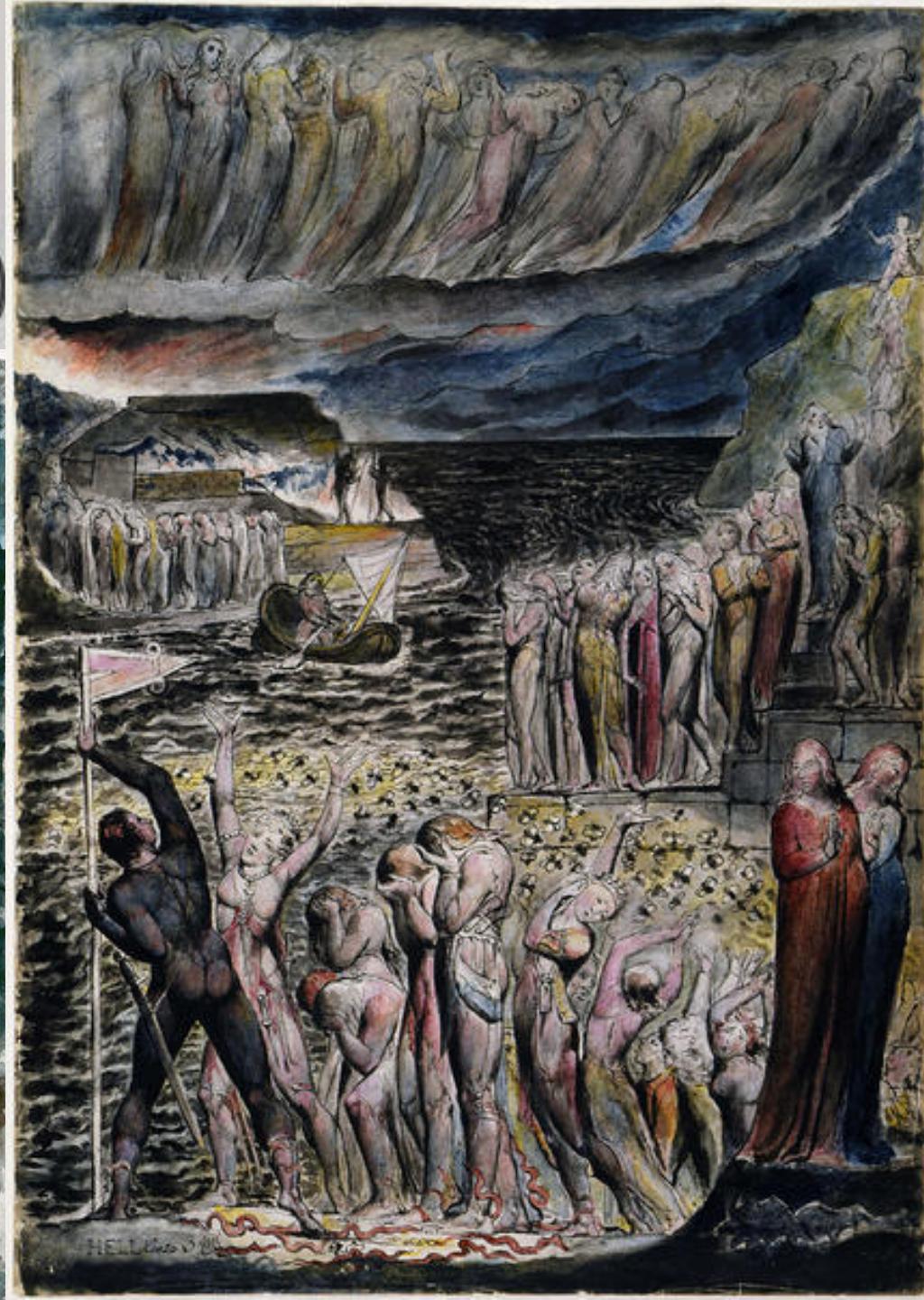
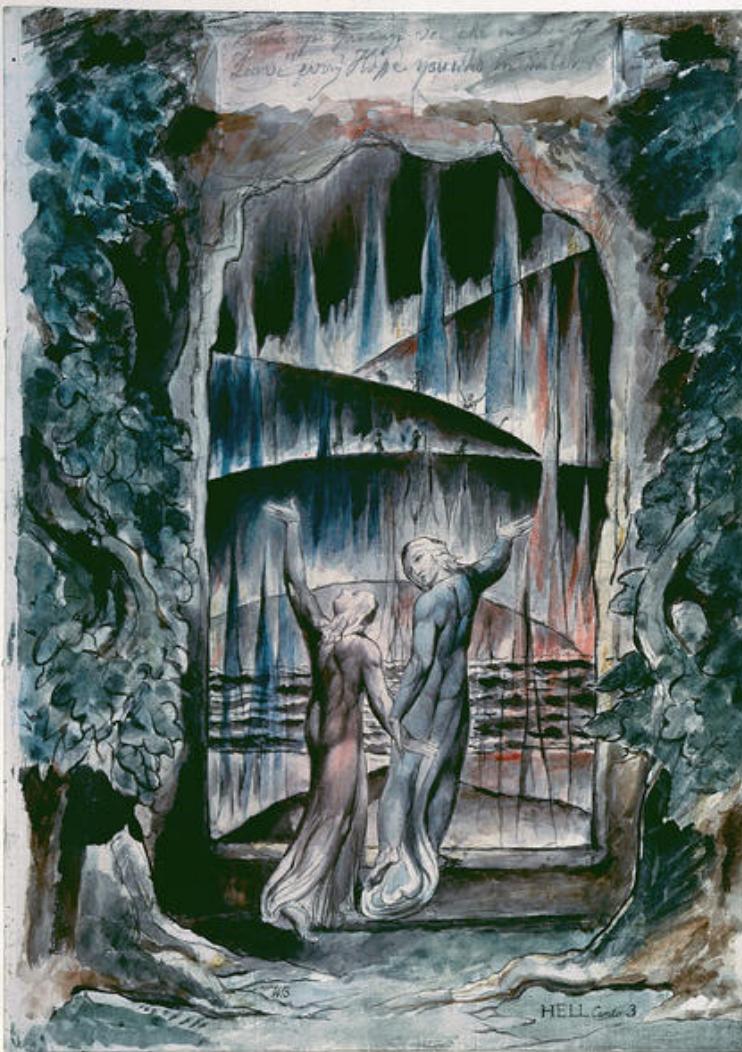
The Structure of Dante's Hell.

Canto III

The field of the Neutral

Contrapasso:
the punishment of
souls in Dante's
Inferno, "by a process
either resembling or
contrasting with the sin
itself." A similar
process, though a
penitential one, occurs
in the Purgatorio.

• William Blake



Dante-Pilgrim and Dante-Author

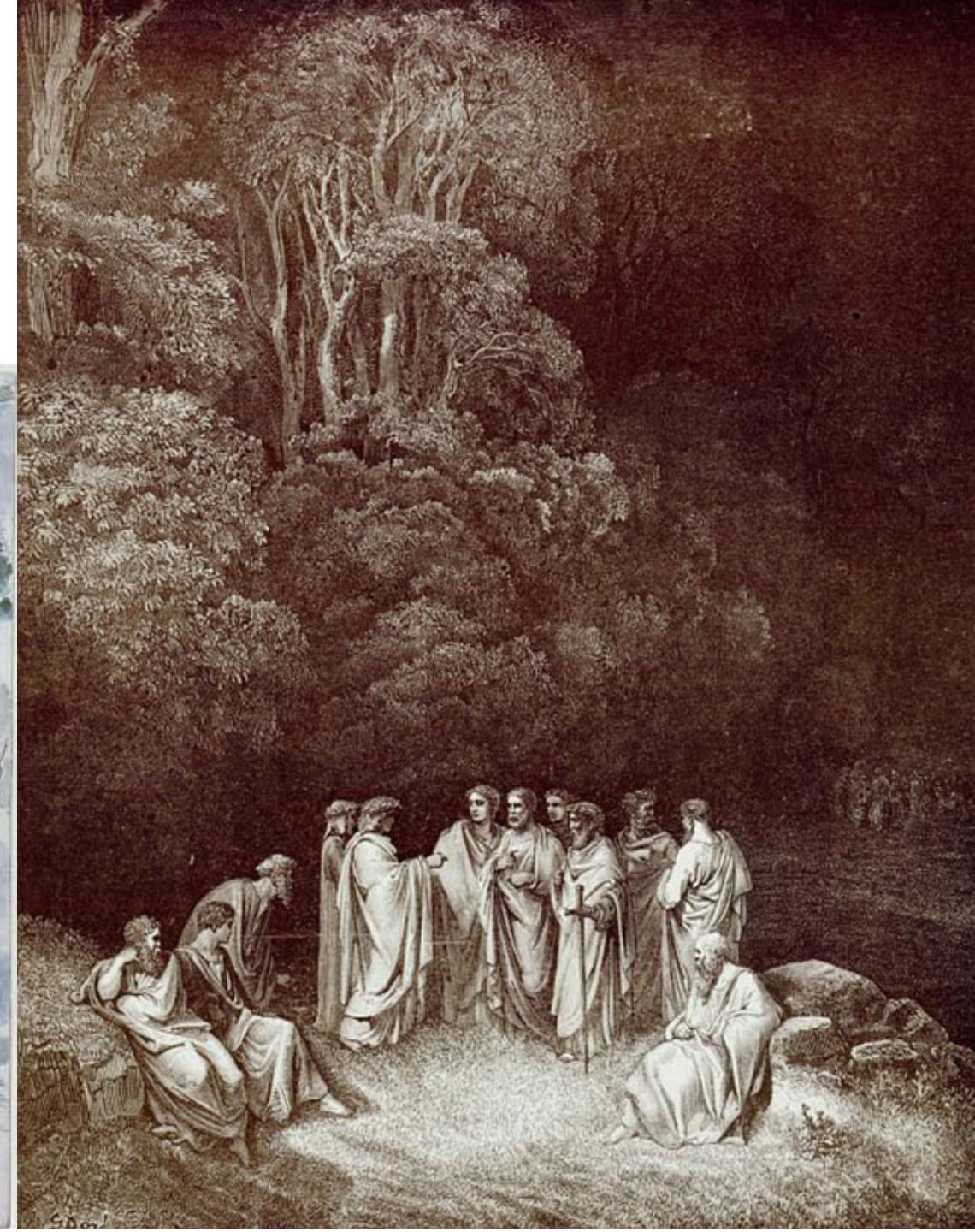
- “The dark landscape trembled so / violently that in terror my memory bathes me again / with sweat.” Inferno III, ll. 130-132

Canto IV

- William Blake



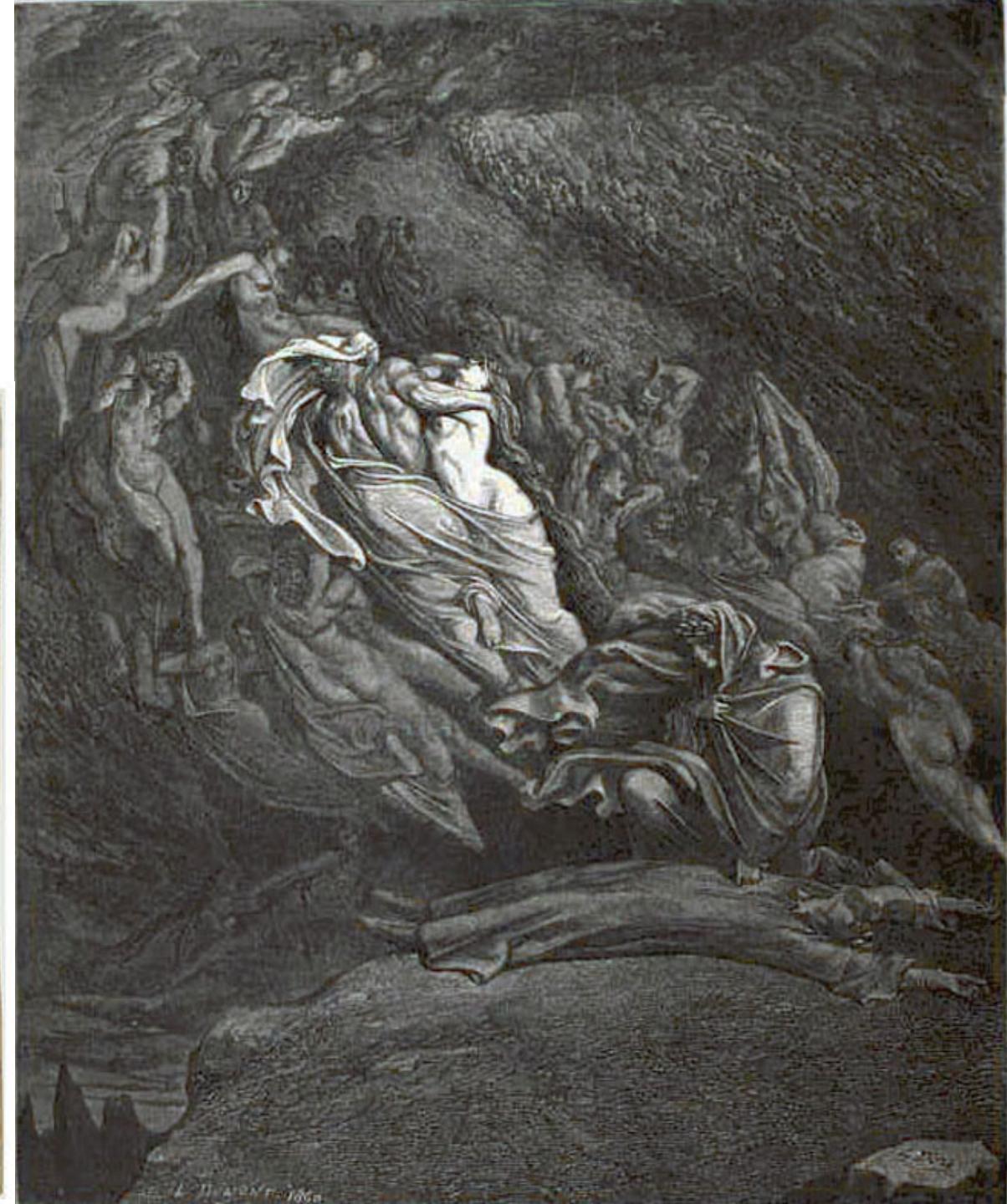
- Gustave Doré



Canto IV

- Limbo
- The noble castle
- The Elysian Fields
- Classical Poets
- Greek philosophers
- Roman heroes

Canto V



Canto V

- The Circle of the lustful
- The contrapasso:
 - Whirlwind, a metaphor for passion
- Characters found there:
 - Marc Antony and Cleopatra
 - Tristan and Iseult
 - Francesca da Rimini and Paolo Malatesta

Paolo and Francesca



Milwaukee Art Museum
collection.mam.org



The Kissed Mouth: That Fateful Kiss
fannycornforth.blogspot.com



Paolo And Francesca Stock...
alamy.com



Francesca da Rimini and Paolo Malatesta
en.wikipedia.org



File:Amos Cassioli - Paolo e Francesca ...
commons.wikimedia.org



Francesca da Rimini - Wikipedia
en.wikipedia.org



Paolo and Francesca—The Lov...
owlcation.com



Inferno V – Francesca's Speech ...
indrasmusings.wordpress.com



The Kissed Mouth: That Fateful Ki...
fannycornforth.blogspot.com



Dante's Paolo and Francesca in I...
electrummagazine.com



Paolo and Francesca da Rimini', Dante ...



The Kissed Mouth: That Fat...



Paolo and Francesca—The ...



The Kissed Mouth: That Fat...



Paolo and Francesca da Ri...



Inferno: Paolo kissing Franc...

Paolo and Francesca, ll. 100-106

Love, which is swiftly kindled in the noble heart, ...

Love, which pardons no one loved from loving in return ...

Love led us to death.

Amor, ch' al cor gentil ratto s'apprende, ...

Amor, ch' a nullo amato amar perdonà, ...

Amor condusse noi ad una morte.

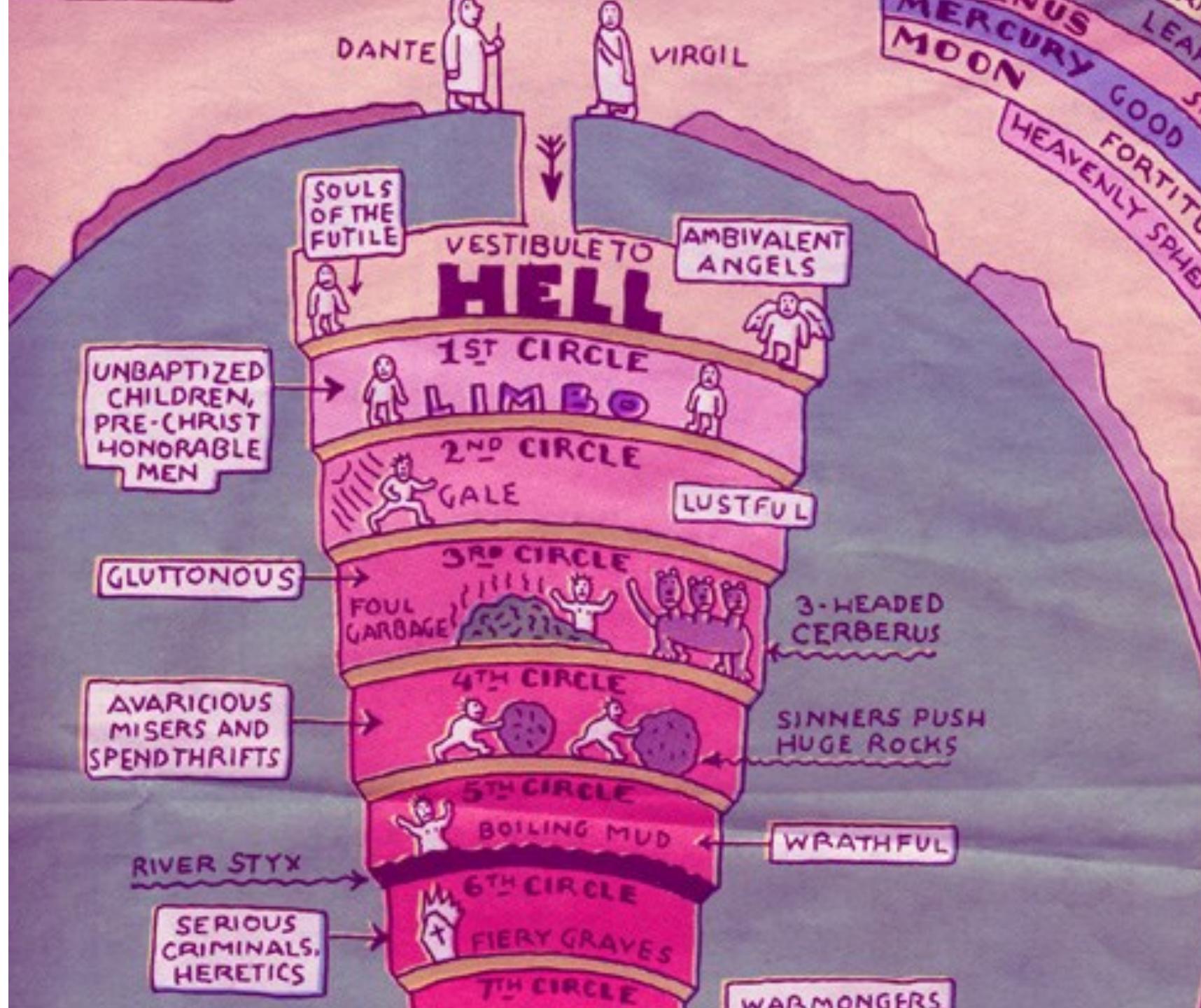
Who is to blame according to Francesca?

Paolo and Francesca, ll. 136-138

“Galeotto was the
Book and he who wrote it: that day we read there no further.”

Who is to blame according to Francesca?

What you missed.

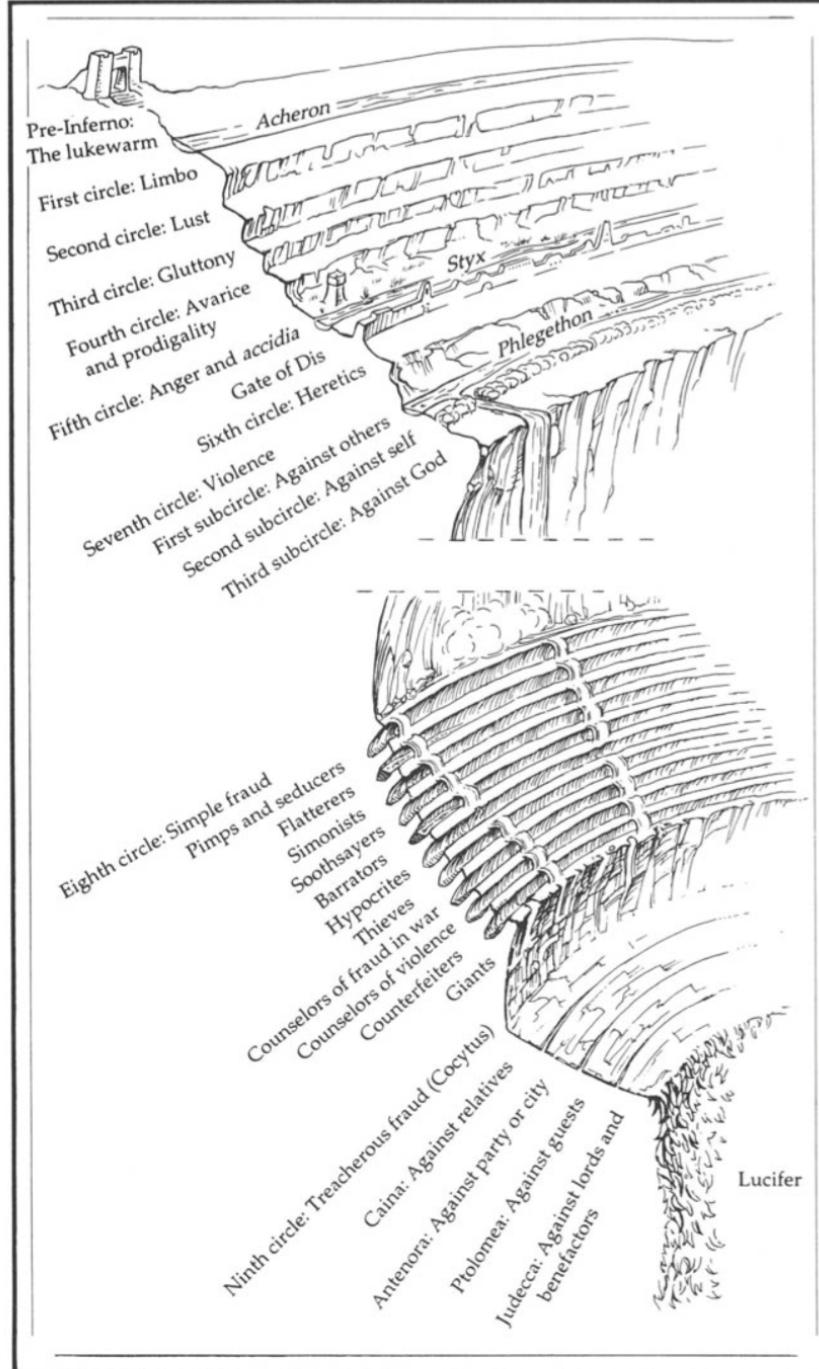


Gates of Dis



Canto XI

- What is XI dedicated to?
 - The structure of Inferno



The Structure of Dante's Hell.