

Dante's Inferno

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October 3, 2017

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Inferno The Italian word for Hell

The Inferno tells the story of Dante through Hell, guided by the ancient Roman poet Virgil. In this poem, Hell is depicted as nine circles of torment location within the Earth.

Vestibule of Hell

The gates bear the inscription "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here". **The Uncommitted** are the souls of people who in life took no sides; the opportunists who were for neither good nor evil. Seen as a representation of the "spiritual stagnation" for the way they lived.

After passing through the Vestibule, Dante and Virgil reach the ferry that will take them across **the river Acheron and to Hell**. The ferry is piloted by Charon, who does not want to let Dante enter because he is living.

The Circles

Are concentric and represent a gradual increase in wickedness and culminate in the center of the earth where Satan is held.

Limbo

First circle, contains the unbaptized and those that did not accept Christ.

Lust

Second circle.

Treachery

The ninth circle; these are the betrayers bound by unyielding ice.

Center

The very center of Hell is the Devil, referred to by Virgil as Dis.

Lucifer is a giant, terrifying beast trapped waist deep in the ice, suffering. He has three faces: red (middle), pale yellow (the right) and black (the left).
Trinity?