

**WELCOME
TO
HELL**





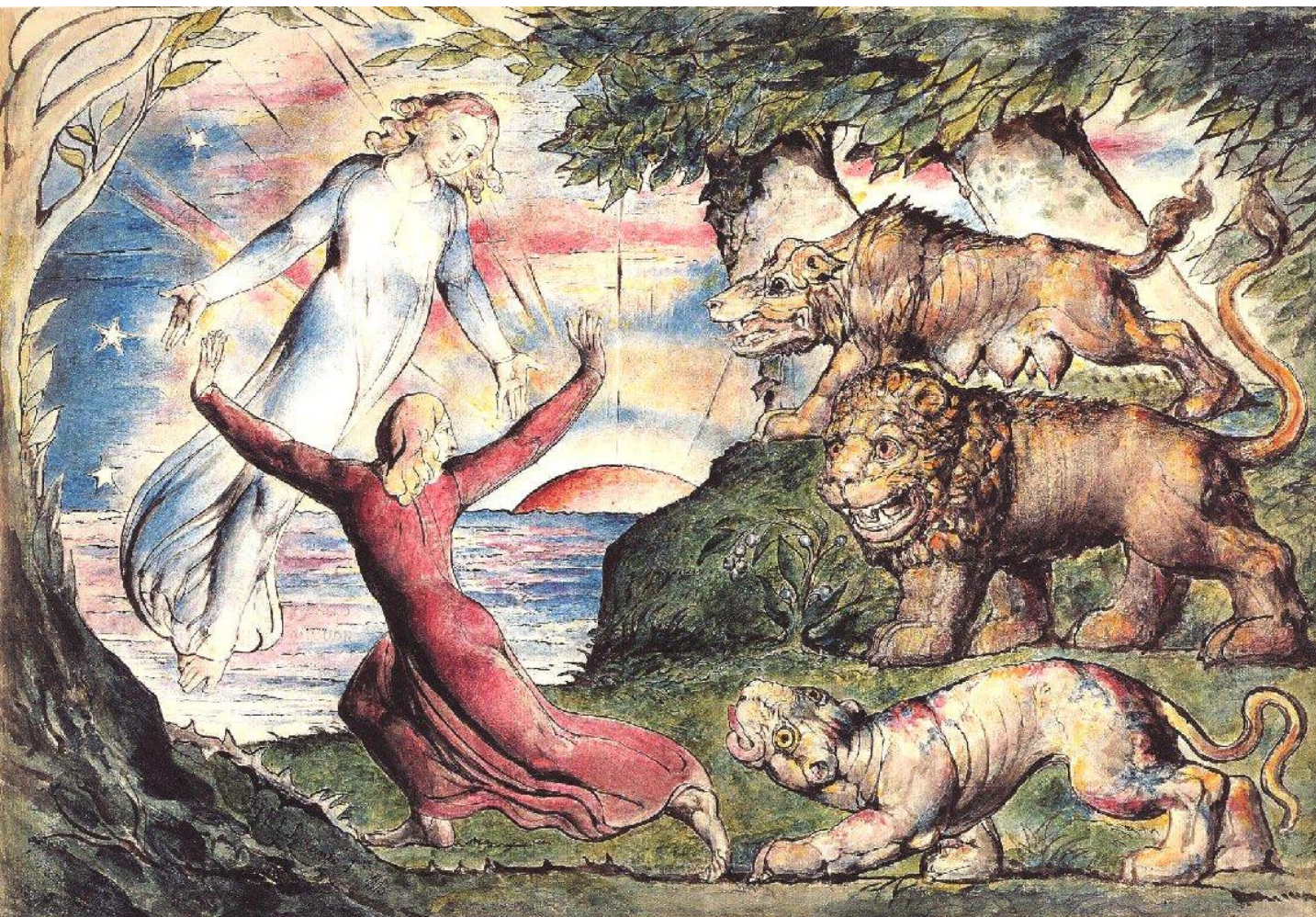
Sinners in “Inferno”

- All sinners that Dante encounters in “Inferno” are unrepentant, so their stories are skewed and not 100% truthful
- Represent 3 different types of sin:
 - **incontinence:** no control of oneself
 - **violence:** violence against self, neighbor, or God
 - **fraud:** intentional deceit



A few things...

- Constantine renamed the Roman Empire to the Holy Roman Empire because it was divinely willed)
- Guelphs (supported papacy) vs. Ghibellines (supported emperor)
- White Guelphs (against strict papal power) vs. Black Guelphs (supported strict papal power)
- Dante was a White Guelph- he was eventually exiled by Pope Boniface VIII











Canto II: The Descent

- Why does Dante falter at the beginning of Canto II?
 - He doesn't think that he is worthy of traveling with Virgil
 - The only other two people who have traveled through Hell and lived to tell about it are:
 - St. Paul the Apostle
 - Aeneas from *The Aeneid*
 - Other Greek heroes like Orpheus, Theseus, Hercules, and Odysseus



Canto II: The Descent

- Would YOU be scared to travel through Hell?
 - Dante hesitates because he knows that the path through Hell (which is the recognition of sin) is a difficult thing for him to do and he is afraid
 - Can you think of a situation in life where you needed to do something that was hard but you stalled because you knew it would be difficult?



Canto II: The Descent

- Who are the 3 heavenly women watching over Dante?
 - St. Lucia
 - Mary
 - Beatrice
- How does Virgil make Dante feel worthy?
 - He tells him that Beatrice saw Dante lost on the True Way and she has asked Virgil to guide him back



Canto II: The Descent

- Virgil is a great guide through Hell.
Why?
 - He has traveled through Hell before
 - He lives in a realm of Hell so he is familiar with the territory





Journal #23

Reflecting on Canto I of Dante's *Inferno*, what challenges in your own life present themselves as The Dark Wood of Error? Are there instances in your life where you have sinned, felt guilty, doubted yourself in a particular situation, or perhaps found yourself lost either figuratively or literally? Explain how your own experiences either are similar to or different than Dante and his own experience of self doubt? Use textual evidence. *One whole page.*

Canto III: The Vestibule of Hell

- What is the inscription above the gates of Hell?
 - “Abandon All Hope Ye Who Enter Here”
- How does Dante feel when he sees the inscription? How would you feel?
 - He always hesitates and feels scared because of the doom and gloom that the sign evokes

Canto III: The Vestibule of Hell

- What is the vestibule's geographical location?
 - It is neither inside or outside of Hell
 - The angels in the war of Heaven vs. Hell didn't choose a side in the battle of God vs. Lucifer
 - These angels are punished harshly
- Who are these sinners in the Vestibule of Hell?
 - The Opportunists– those who only chased after their own ambitions

Canto III: The Vestibule of Hell

- What is the punishment of these sinners?
 - They are perpetually chasing a banner that constantly changes directions
 - They are being stung by wasps and hornets, making their faces bloody with puss; worms and maggots will eat those gouts
- What is Dante trying to teach us here?
 - One thing to learn here is that Dante is letting us know that choosing not to make a choice is in itself a choice. These people chose not to choose to be committed to good.





Crossing the Acheron

- How do Virgil and Dante cross the Acheron River?
 - Charon, the ancient ferryman in all of Greek mythology
- What is his job?
 - He ferries the sinners across the river to the circles of Hell.
- What angers Charon?
 - He thinks that they are souls, but indeed Dante is alive so he becomes irate



PER ME SI VA NELLA CITTÀ DOLENTE.
PER ME SI VA NE L' ETERNO DOLORE.
PER ME SI VA TRA LA PERDUTA GENTE.
PER ME SI VA TRA LA FORTUNA GENTE.
GIUSTIZIA MOSSE L' MIO ALTO FATTORE.
FECEMI LA DIVINA POTESTATE.
LA SOMMA SAPIENZA, E' L' PRIMO AMORE.
DINANZI A ME NON FUR COSE CREATE.
SE NON ETERNE, ED IO ETERNO DURO.
LASCIATE OGNI SPERANZA OVI CHE NENTRATE.

Fig. con. venuto al luogo dove: l' ho detto.
Fig. la madre di ogni delusione: l' ho detto.
L'ultima parola: l' ho detto. Sicut est. L'ho detto. Sicut est.

Father-like Virgil & Human Dante



- How does Virgil protect Dante here?
 - We see Virgil taking on the role of fatherly figure and protecting Dante against the wrath of Charon
- What happens to Dante in the boat?
 - He is overwhelmed and passes out. We see Dante display his humanity when he passes out in the boat. We will see this many more times throughout the text where Dante shows his human emotions





Circle 1: Limbo

- Who are the sinners in Circle 1/Limbo?
 - They are the unbaptized.
- What is their sin?
 - They are SINLESS! These sinners are here since they didn't received God's grace in baptism, so they couldn't go to heaven



Circle 1: Limbo

- What is the punishment of these sinners?
 - Their “punishment” is that they have no hope of reaching God, but they are not necessarily punished like sinners in the other circles of Hell
- What is the geography of Limbo?
 - It is a green meadow with a babbling brook winding through, with the emerald green Citadel housing all of the unbaptized sinners here. It seems like a not-so-bad place to be!



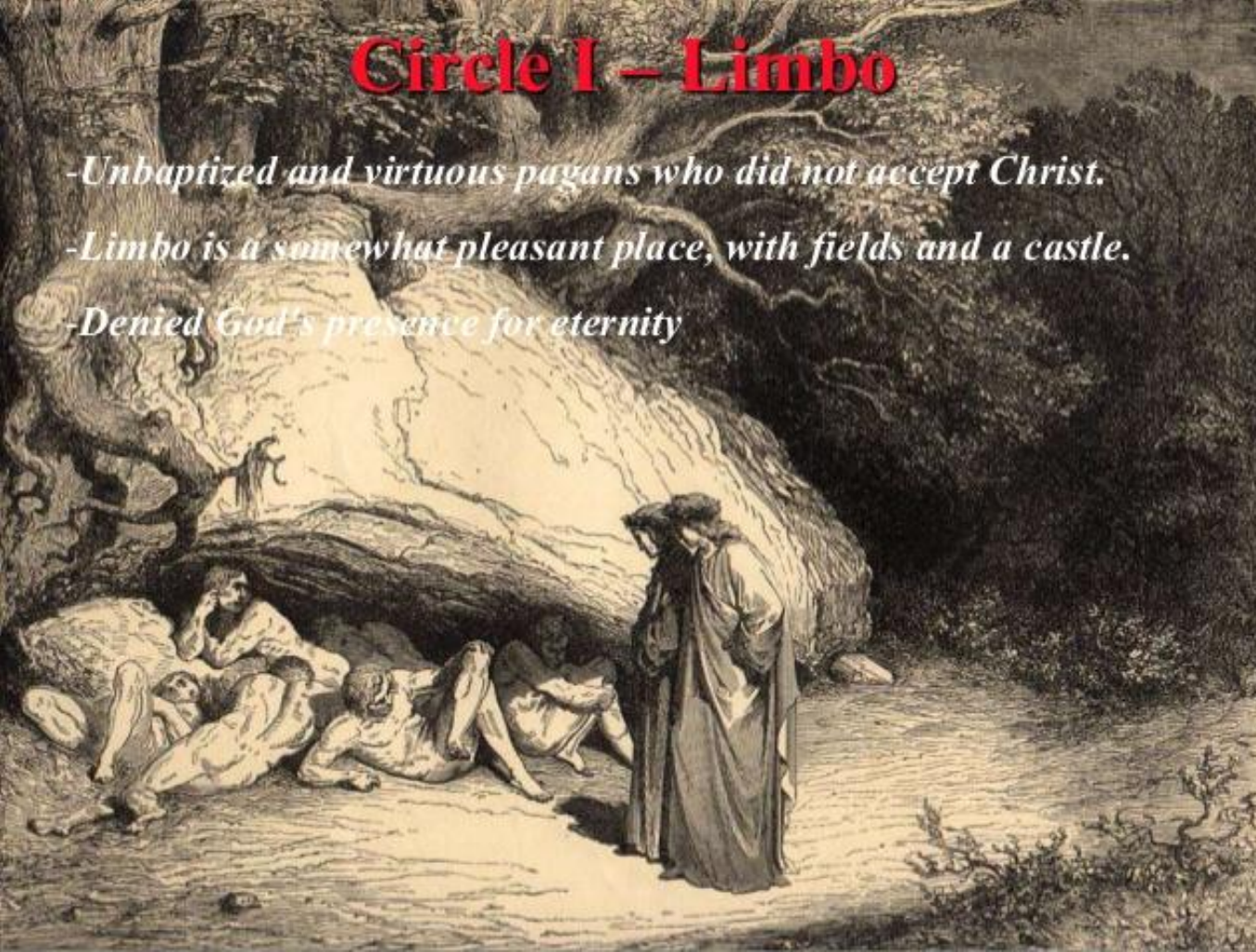
Circle 1: Limbo

- Who are some notable sinners here?
 - The great Roman poets, Horace, Ovid, Lucan, and Homer
 - This is where Virgil lives
- Dante is honored how?
 - The poets invite him to walk with them. EEK!



Circle I – Limbo

- Unbaptized and virtuous pagans who did not accept Christ.
- Limbo is a somewhat pleasant place, with fields and a castle.
- Denied God's presence for eternity





Circle 2: The Lustful

- Who is the monster who sits outside of Circle 2?
 - King Minos, the judge of Hell
- What is his job?
 - He assigns the eternal resting place for the sinners in Hell.
- How does he assign them their place?
 - After they tell him their sins, he coils his tail around himself, indicating the circle of Hell they will go. He flings them there!





Circle 2: The Lustful

- Who are the sinners in Circle 2?
 - They are the lustful/adulterous. They have committed sins of incontinence– lack of self control with their lust
- What is the punishment of these sinners?
 - They are tossed in an everlasting whirlwind, tossed about with the gusts and gales of wind; they are wailing and shrieking, blaspheming God



Circle 2: The Lustful

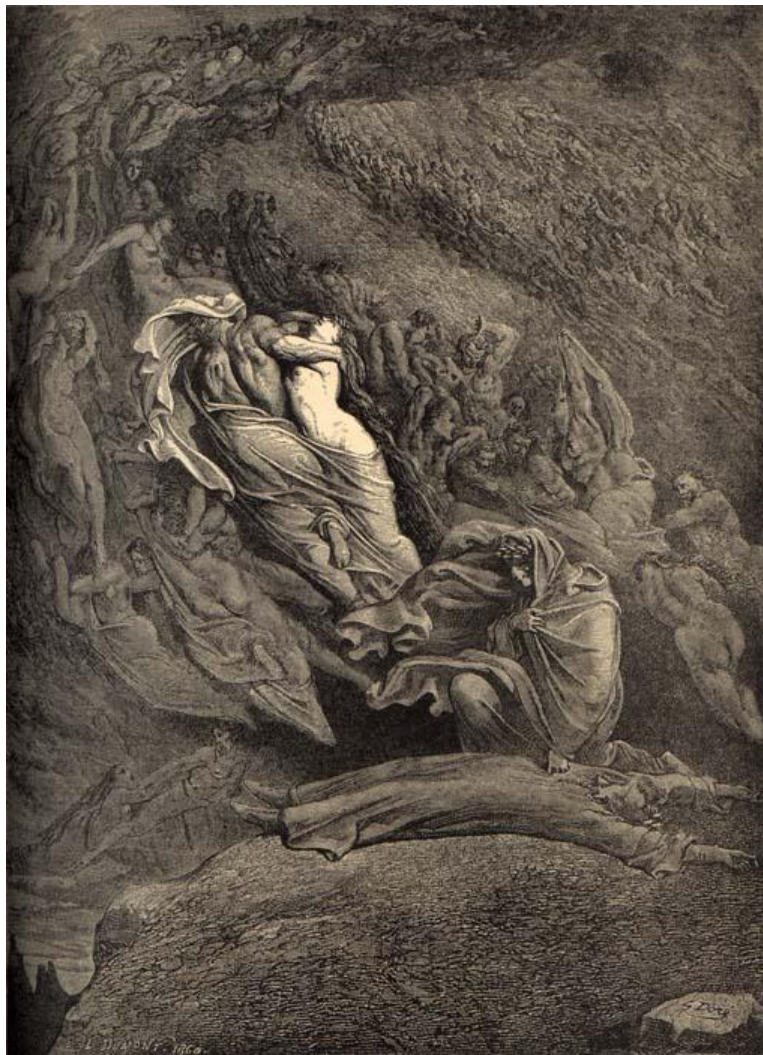
- What is the rationale for this punishment (Law of Retribution?)
 - Just as the sinners could not control their own lustful/sexual desires, they now cannot control their own bodies in the whirlwind
- Who are some of the sinners that Dante speaks with and what is their story?
 - Dante stops to talk to Paolo and Francesca, two adulterous lovers who cheated on their spouses while reading *Lancelot*



Circle 2: The Lustful

- A key to understanding the Inferno is that many of the guilty souls found there avoid taking responsibility for the actions. We will examine how Francesca avoids taking responsibility for her actions.
- (Spin is nothing new. Francesca is excellent at spinning her story to make herself appear in a good light.)











Circle 3: The Gluttons

- What is gluttony?
 - Gluttony is eating and drinking too much.
 - Gluttony is subjecting reason to desire for food and drink.
 - Gluttony is being obese or alcoholic.



Circle 3: The Gluttons

- What is the weather like in Circle 3?
 - It is raining frozen rain, hailstones, black snow, and dirty water with putrid slush
 - The smell is gross—think sewage!



Circle 3: The Gluttons

- Who are the sinners in Circle 3?
 - The Gluttons
- What is their sin?
 - They have a lack of self-control in food and drink
 - They overindulge and cannot control their appetites



Circle 3: The Gluttons

- Who is the beast who is in charge of Circle 3?
 - Cerberus– he is a 3-headed dog that devours the sinners; he has phlegm dripping from his beard, red eyes, sharp claws
- Why is he a fitting guard?
 - He is a glutton; never stops eating the sinners!
- What is the punishment of the sinners?
 - They are perpetually being eaten and ripped apart by Cerberus as they lay in piles of excrement (poop)



Circle 3: The Gluttons

- What is the rationale of their punishment? (think—the Law of Retribution!)
 - Just as the never stop eating on earth, now they will never stop being eaten by Cerberus.
 - Just as they acted like pigs on earth, now they must lay in poop, just like pigs



Circle 3: The Gluttons

- Whom does Dante meet in this Circle?
 - Ciaccio the Hog, who was a Florentine citizen who knew Dante
- What does Ciaccio predict for Dante?
 - That the White Guelphs will triumph over the Black Guelphs for power in Florence



Circle 3: The Gluttons

- Virgil tells Dante that these sinners will not awake until what day?
 - Judgement Day– this is when Christ will come again and judge all souls, both living and dead
 - Virgil tells Dante that the punishments could be lessened if the sinners are deserving of them















CIRCLE III gluttony

"The third circle is for the gluttons, and poetically are damned to a place that was like what they made their life style like."



*È l'eroe mio diletto, le sue sventure
 D'ora in ora, e con pianto lo prego
 La gente d'indietro a le ferocie cedere. Canto VI. Inq. 1. di Dante.*



Cerbero, fiera crudele e mostruosa,