

# Circle 8 Bolgia 10: The Falsifiers

**Who are the sinners and what are their punishments?**

*Unlike all other sinners in Hell, the Falsifiers are tortured from within themselves rather than from without.*

**Alchemists-** They have leprosy (the Alchemists tried to change lead into gold, and now their skin turns from healthy to diseased)

**Evil Impersonators-** They are insane (the Evil Impersonators made other people confused about who the Impersonators were; now they are insane, making them confused about who they are)

**Counterfeiters-** They made what they had bigger than it should be- have dropsy, which makes parts of their body swell up and be bigger than it should be; they suffer from eternal thirst

**Liars-** They lied with their testimony (their words stank) so they are feverous and stink

# Circle 8 Bolgia 10: The Falsifiers

Most of the punishment for this Bolgia comes from within; think of their sins as internal, so now their punishments will mirror that idea.

**Gianni Schicchi**- an evil impersonator who used his acting ability to imitate the voices of other people. He dictated a new will from a wealthy Florentine patriarch to be given to Gianni Schicchi (himself)

**Master Adamo**- a counterfeiter who made 21-carat coins instead of the standard 24-carat coins, thus creating a currency crisis in Northern Italy in the 1200s

**Potiphar's Wife**- the wife of Potiphar fell in love with Joseph (think Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!) and wanted to have an affair with him; he declined and she told her husband that Joseph hit on her; told in Genesis chapter 39

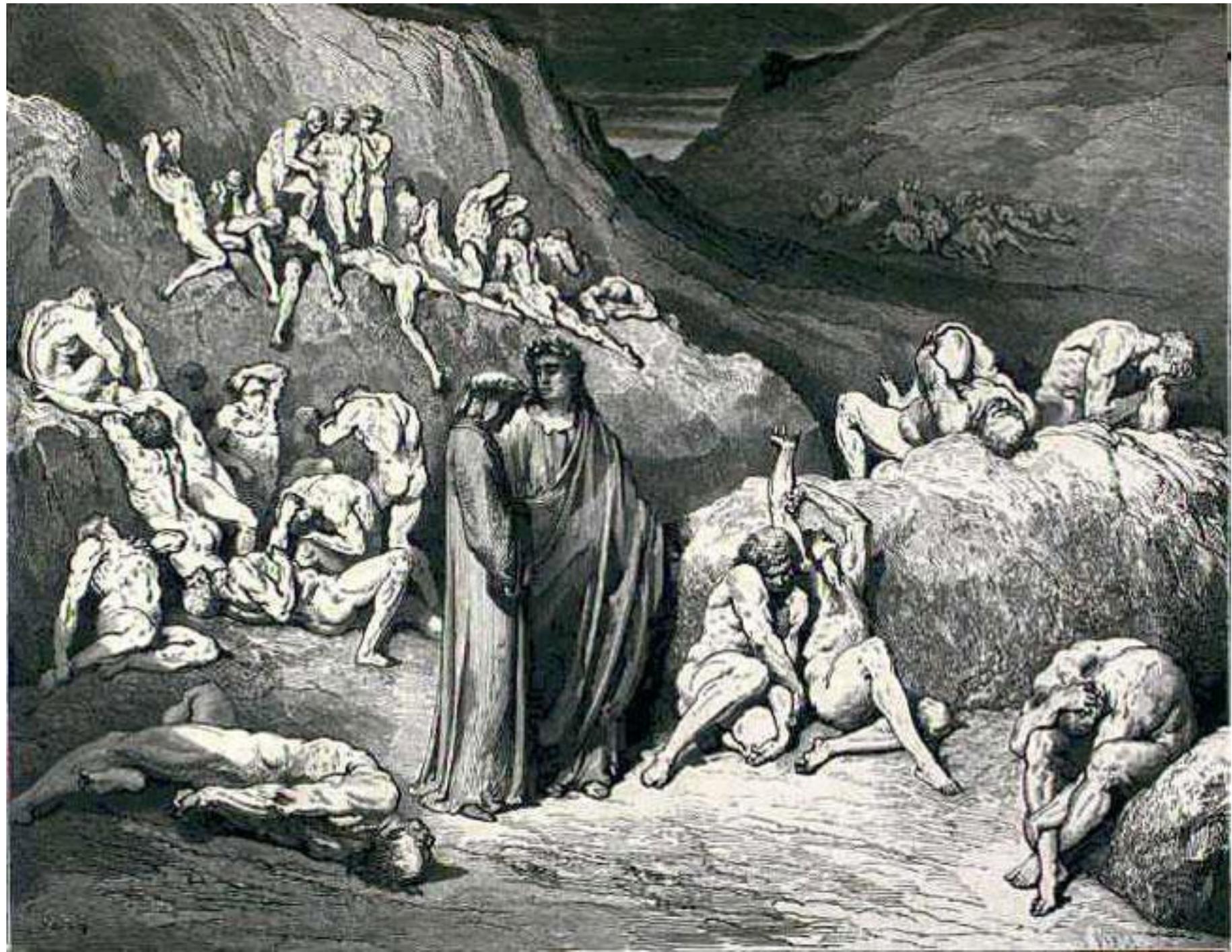
# Circle 8 Bolgia 10: The Falsifiers

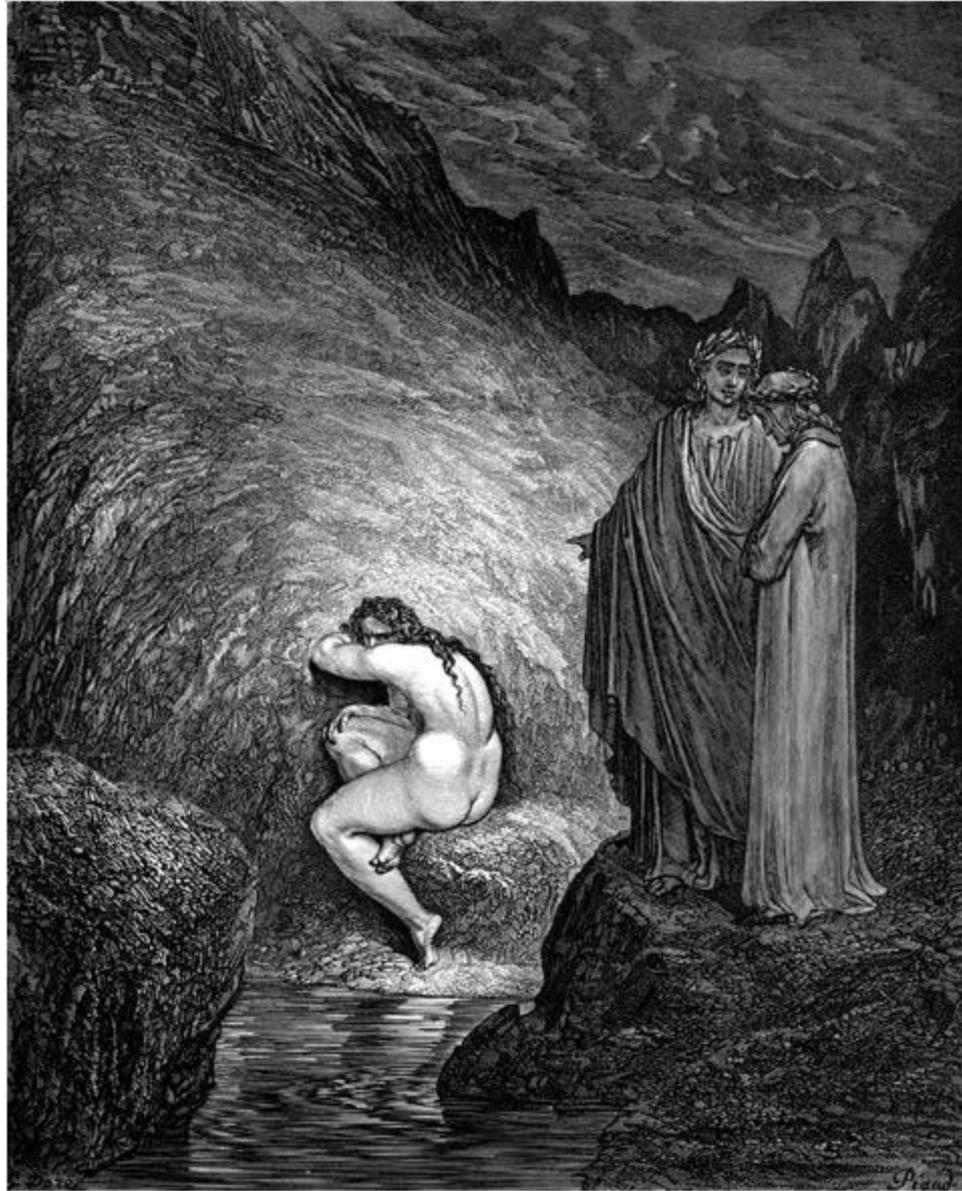
At the end of Circle 8 Bolgia 10, Dante intently listens to the sinners telling their stories. Virgil becomes frustrated with him:

Canto XXX line 130:

I was still standing, fixed upon those two/ when the Master said to me:  
“Now keep on looking/ a little longer and I quarrel with you.”

Dante is instantly contrite, and Virgil stops being so angry with him. From this little instant, we can learn that we ought not to get so emotionally tied to the sinners and listen to Human Reason instead. We should not listen to petty wrangling between sinners.





# Journal #35

In Circle 9 of Dante's "Inferno," we see the idea of complex fraud come to fruition. Reflecting on this theme, where in your own life have you experienced any sort of Complex Fraud? What exactly did that entail? Did you feel slighted by someone close to you, such as a family member or friend? Perhaps it was in school, or in an extracurricular activity. Even more aggressive, have you ever felt slighted by a benefactor or coach, or perhaps, God? What led to this feeling of betrayal? Is it similar to or different than the sinners who encounter in Circle 9? Use the text to cite 5 pieces of textual evidence from "Inferno" to support your claim. *Two whole pages; 5 pieces of textual evidence.*

# Towering Giants

Many giants were guilty of the sin of pride, and they rebelled against their ancient gods just like the angels of Christian mythology rebelled against God.

Dante believes that he sees huge towers in the distance, but Virgil tells him that these are giants. The giants are immersed halfway into the ground. Most of the giants are chained to keep them immobile.

This is a lethal combination; a being of great intellect and great strength who wishes to do great evil can cause much destruction. We prefer that criminals who wish to do great evil be stupid and weak, but alas, this does not always happen.

# The Towering Giants

- The Giant, Antaeus, while not chained like the other Giants because he did not participate in the assault upon the Greek gods, has a savage reputation in classical tales and is just as dumb as the others in this circle.
- Virgil promises the Giant that Dante will spread Antaeus's fame back on Earth in exchange for the vain Giant to lower them in the palm of his hand to floor of the 9th circle (the pit) of Hell.
- **punishment-** chained inside the stone well just before 9th circle of Hell as guardians of the Pit of Hell. Chained here to be kept immobile.

# The Towering Giants

**Nimrod**- the builder of the Tower of Babel. The Old Testament does not identify Nimrod, the first king of Babylon, as a giant.

**Ephialtes and Briareus**- both warred against the ancient gods

**Tityos and Typhon**- both insulted Jupiter (Zeus)

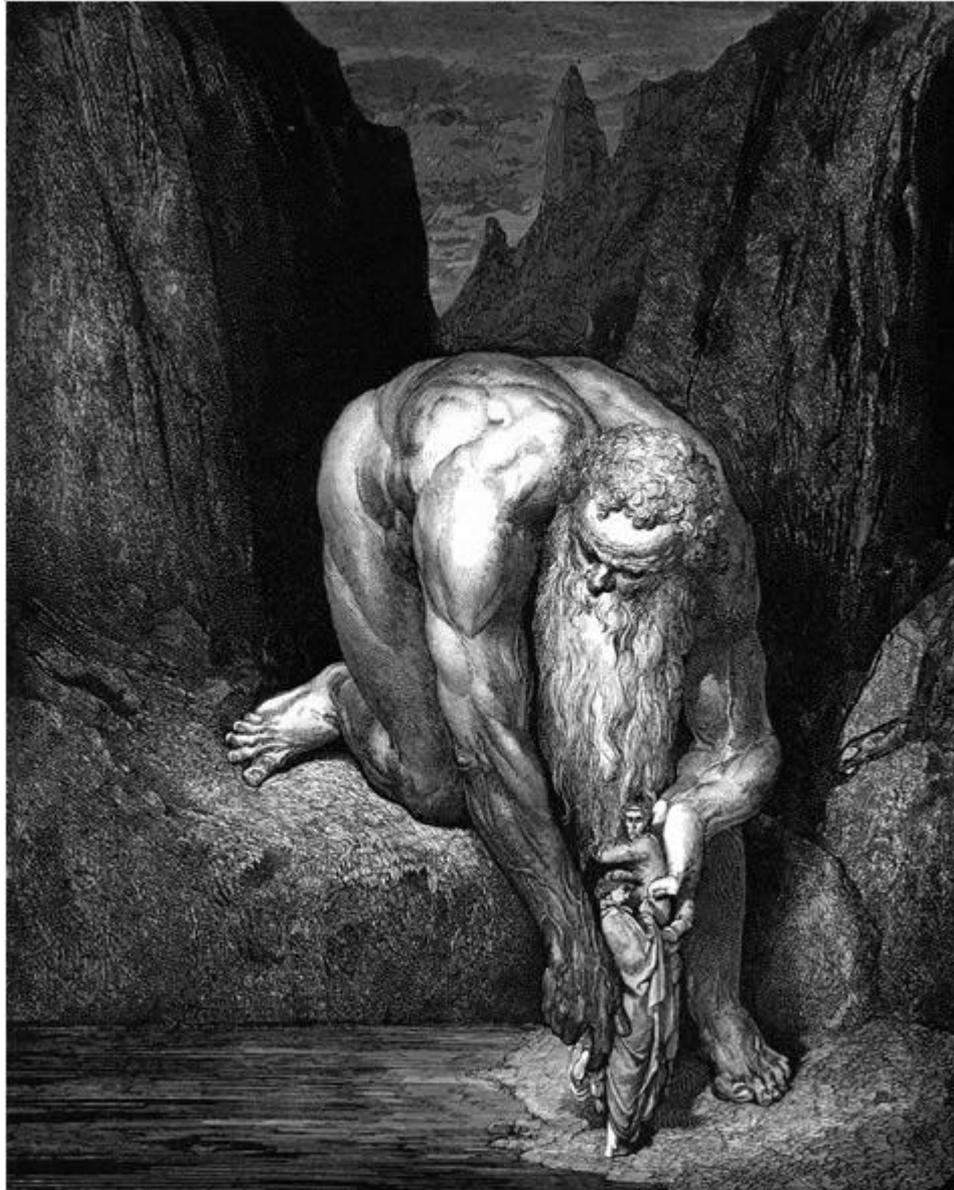
**Antaeus**- He refrained from warring against the gods; because he refrained, the gods were able to resist the giants. He is not bound, unlike the giants. Not all the guards in the Inferno have been evil. e.g. Minos, Chiron the Centaur; helps Virgil and Dante get to the 9th Circle

Virgil disrespects Nimrod and calls him a “blathering idiot.”

# The Towering Giants



# The Towering Giants



# Circle 9

- 9th circle is divided into 4 rings
- Each ring punishes one kind of traitor: traitors against kin/family, traitors against government, traitors against guests, and traitors against benefactors, including God
- **punishments:** frozen in ice, reflecting the idea that being a traitor is a sin committed in cold blood.
- “all warmth of love for God and for their fellow man has been extinguished” --pg. 384, Mark Musa translation
- Because they are frozen in ice, they can do nothing should someone- such as Dante- kick one of them in the head. Dante feels no remorse whatsoever!

# Circle 9

What is Dante's initial reaction to seeing the Pit of Hell?

He looks around and wonders whether he can find the words to describe how harsh and grating the entire scene is.

Some sinners:

**Napaloene and Alessandro:** brothers and rivals; Guelph and Ghibelline, respectively. Murdered each other over inheritance, not politics. They are frozen together in the ice and still fighting.

These sinners have sinned greatly, and do not want to be remembered. None of the sinner want to tell their own stories, so they are traitors to each other instead and tell Dante about the other sinners and their stories.

# What is Cocytus?

A river has been flowing throughout Hell. At various places it has different names. Here it is called Cocytus (which means “Lamentation”) and it is a frozen lake. The traitors are frozen in the lake.

# Why ice?

- We have seen fire used in the Inferno, such as with the Simonists as a parody of Pentecost, but here, Dante is intentional with the use of ice.
- Both extremes--hot and cold-- are painful. Here, some sinners are completely encased in ice, and Dante is not able to speak to them.
- We speak of someone murdering someone else in cold blood, so perhaps that was Dante's intention here with ice in Circle 9.

# Ugolino and Ruggieri

CANNIBALISM IN ACTION!

Ugolino is gnawing on the face of Ruggieri. The two are frozen in the ice, but their heads are above the ice, and allows this take place.

Both Guelphs and Ghibellines are in Hell; intentional on Dante's part.







# Circle 9- Complex fraud

**Caina-** named after Cain who slew Abel, his brother. Here are punished those who were treacherous to kin/family. They are frozen “in ice/ up to where a person’s shame appears.” The traitors have their heads sticking out of the ice, and they are able to bow their heads down towards the ice.

**Advantage:** their tears fall to the ground instead of freezing their eyes shut. They perpetually cry.

**punishment:** They are buried up to their necks; shame appears with a blush in a person’s face.

## Circle 9

**Antenora-** named after a Trojan who betrayed his city. These sinners are punished for being treacherous against their countries or political parties.

## Circle 9

**Ptolomea-** In the third ring, Ptolomea, which is named after Ptolomy, a captain of Jericho who murdered his father-in-law and his father-in-law's two sons after inviting them to a feast, are punished those who were treacherous against guests. In this ring, we see traitors who are completely buried under the ice.

# Circle 9

Lucifer, the angel who led the rebellion against God, is punished here by being buried in the ice with his head and wings outside the ice. He has one head, but 3 faces, and 3 mouths. In each mouth, he chews a great sinner. In the middle is Judas, and in the other mouths are Brutus and Cassius.

Lucifer chews on these great sinners in a parody, or mockery, of the Holy Sacrament of Eucharist.

## Circle 9

**Judecca-** The very bottom of the Inferno is reserved for the worst sins of all. In this fourth and final ring of the ninth Circle of the Inferno, Judecca, which is named after the apostle Judas, who betrayed Christ, are punished those who were treacherous against their benefactors, and especially God.

# Circle 9

**The Ultimate Evil:** Judas Iscariot, betrayer of Christ, is seen at the pit of Hell.

In Judecca, Dante sees sinners under the ice; they remain nameless and Dante cannot speak to them. He is silent when he sees ultimate evil, as he also will be when he sees ultimate goodness.

The sinners frozen in ice are and unable to speak. They have been frozen in grotesque positions.

“Some prone are lying, others stand erect, / This with the head,  
and that one with the soles, / Another, bow-like, face to feet iners.

# Lucifer

Who is Lucifer? What was his sin and what is his punishment?

Lucifer, or Satan, rebelled against God, his spiritual benefactor. For this reason, he is guilty of the ultimate evil. He is frozen in the ice, although his head and wings are free. The wings flap perpetually, creating a breeze that freezes all of the Pit of Hell.

Lucifer is the opposite of God: God is a Trinity: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. He has 3 mouths, each of which is chewing on a very evil sinner, so we cannibalism again at the very bottom of Hell.

# Lucifer

- Once described as the most beautiful of angels, now Lucifer is the ugliest:

“The Emperor of the kingdom dolorous/  
From his med-breast forth issued from the ice;/  
And better with a giant I compare/  
Than do the giants with those arms of his;  
/Consider now how great must be that whole/  
Which unto such a part conforms itself.”

- From his six eyes flow tears, and in each of his 3 mouths he chews on a sinner.

# The Sinners of Lucifer

- **Judas Iscariot-** Judas is being chewed in the central mouth, making him the worst sinner of all time. Since he betrayed Jesus, he is one of the worst sinners of all time, according to Dante. Judas's head is in Lucifer's mouth and his feet are sticking out. In contrast, the bottom half of the bodies of Cassius and Brutus are in Lucifer's mouth.
- **Cassius and Brutus-** It might be a bit of a stretch for more contemporary readers to understand why these 2 sinners are here in Lucifer's mouth. Dante believed that God supported the Roman Empire and that it was divinely willed.
- By opposing the formation of the Roman Empire through the assassination of Julius Caesar, Brutus and Cassius were traitors to God. They were traitors to their spiritual and temporal benefactors. Also, by assassinating Julius Caesar, they ensured that more power struggles would come into existence and more people who be killed before the Roman Empire came to fruition.

# How Do They Leave?

- Dante and Virgil get out of the Inferno by climbing on Lucifer. They go to a hole in the ice where Lucifer is encased and they climb along his hairy side and hairy legs.
- Suddenly, Dante realizes that they are going up, not down-- they have passed the center of the Earth. The last sight that Dante has of Lucifer is of his legs sticking up--thus connecting him with the Simonists in Circle 8, with their legs sticking up.
- Virgil and Dante then reach a cavern and climb a winding path until they reach the surface of the Earth.