



The Inferno, Part II: The Sins of Incontinence

by Barbara Harrington, PhD

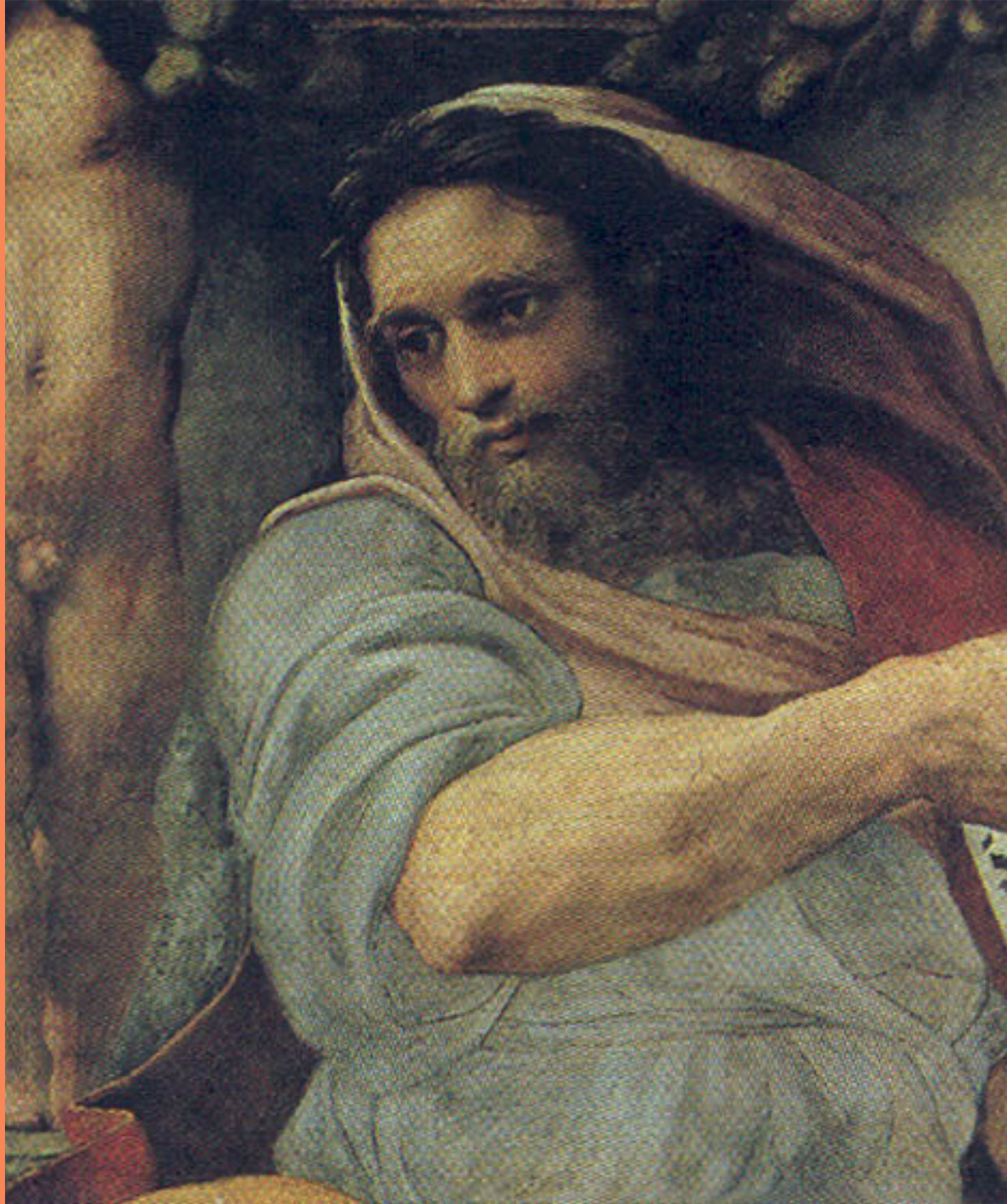


Canto V – The Carnal

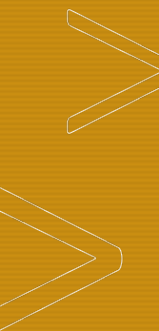
“I came to a
place stripped
bare of every
light and roaring
on the naked
dark like seas
wracked by a
war of winds...
Storm and
counterstorm...
Whirling and
battering it drives
them on...”

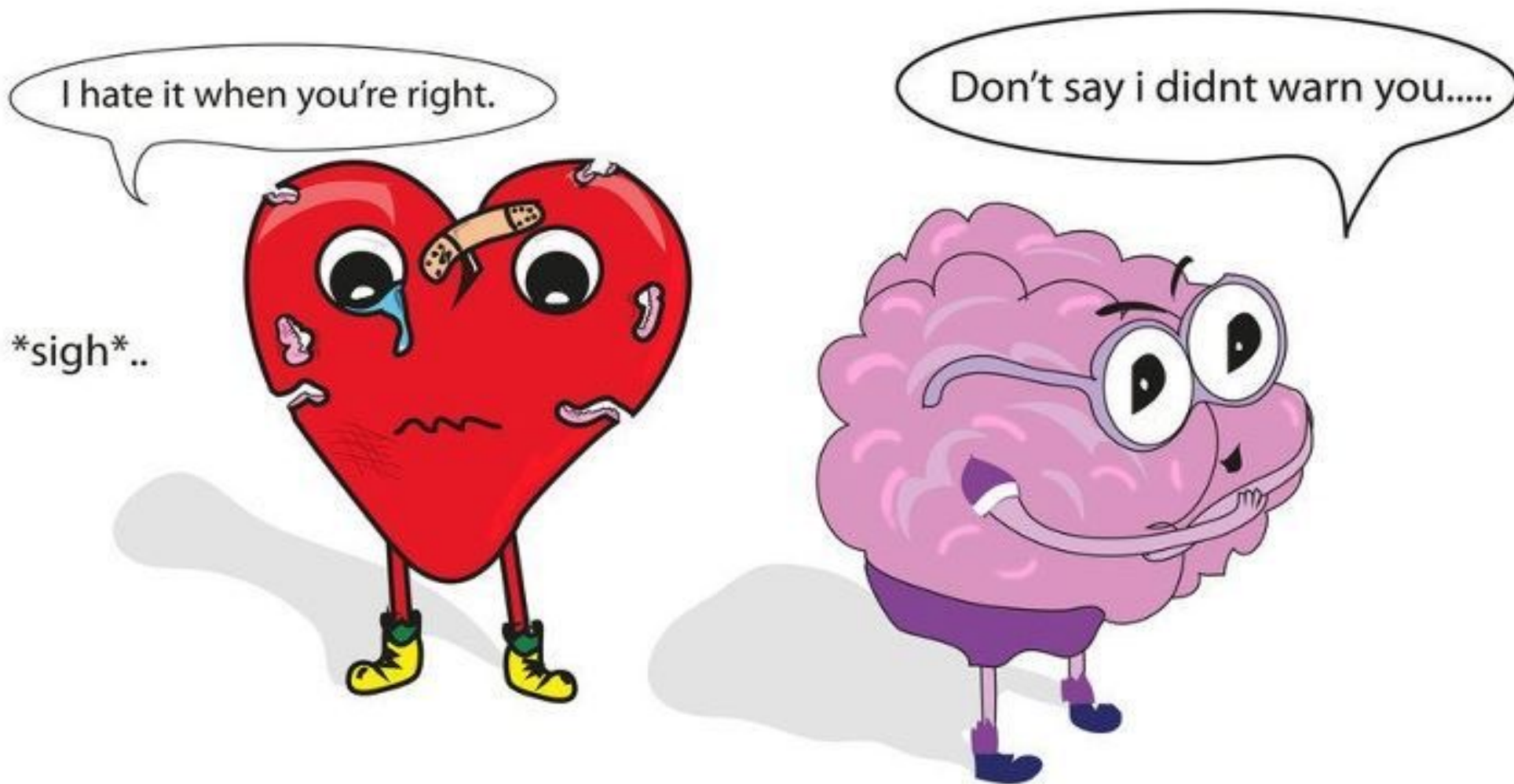
Andover KS, April 2022





"The heart of
the wicked
man is like a
troubled sea
that cannot
rest." Isaiah





Circle II:

“the carnal
and lustful
who
betrayed
reason to
their
appetite.”

“As they whirled above, he pointed out...one by one the great knights and ladies..and I was swept by pity and confusion.”





***Francesca and
Paolo: Adulterous
couple killed by
Francesca's
husband,
Gianciotto da
Verruchio***

“O living creature / “Animal!”



Incontinence is the abandonment of the essence of humanity – reason.

Francesca sees Dante the Pilgrim as an animal, not recognizing his humanity.

She herself is without reason, using courtly flirty language even though she is in hell.



**Love...seized my lover with passion
for that sweet body from which I was
torn unshriven to my doom.**

**Love, which permits no loved one
not to love, took me so strongly with
delight in him...**

**LOVE MADE
ME DO IT**

Love as an overwhelming force that cannot be withstood is a staple of the Italian Medieval lyric tradition.

- The Sicilian poet **Giacomo da Lentini** : “love has taken me” and “Love has conquered me.”
- **Guido delle Colonne** : “so love has taken and seized me” and “Love that conquers all.”



Dante's Sonnet

*"Io sono stato con Amore insieme"
(I Have Been with Love Together)*

I have passed my days in fellowship with Love...
I know how he can ply or curb or spur,
And how folk laugh or groan who are his thralls.
Reason or virtue who 'gainst him puts forth
Is like to one should pipe amid the storm,
And think thereby to quell the thunder's rage,
And calm the warring elements on high.
Wherefore within the compass of his darts
Free-will for ever in his danger lies;
Gainst him in vain will counsel's shaft be sped.



▶ "Love led us to one death...
Caina waits for him who took our lives.'



She's still
enjoying the
memory.

She forgets to
mention that her
lover is her
husband's
brother.



Sin from bad media

“On a day for dalliance we read
the rhyme Of Lancelot, how
love had mastered him.

We were alone with innocence
and dim time.

Pause after pause that high old
story drew our eyes together
while we blushed and paled...”

I'M NOT AN ANIMAL!

**I AM
HUMAN**




At the end of the
encounter with
Francesca, Dante the
Pilgrim swoons with pity.

He wakes up in the third
circle of hell not knowing
how he got there.

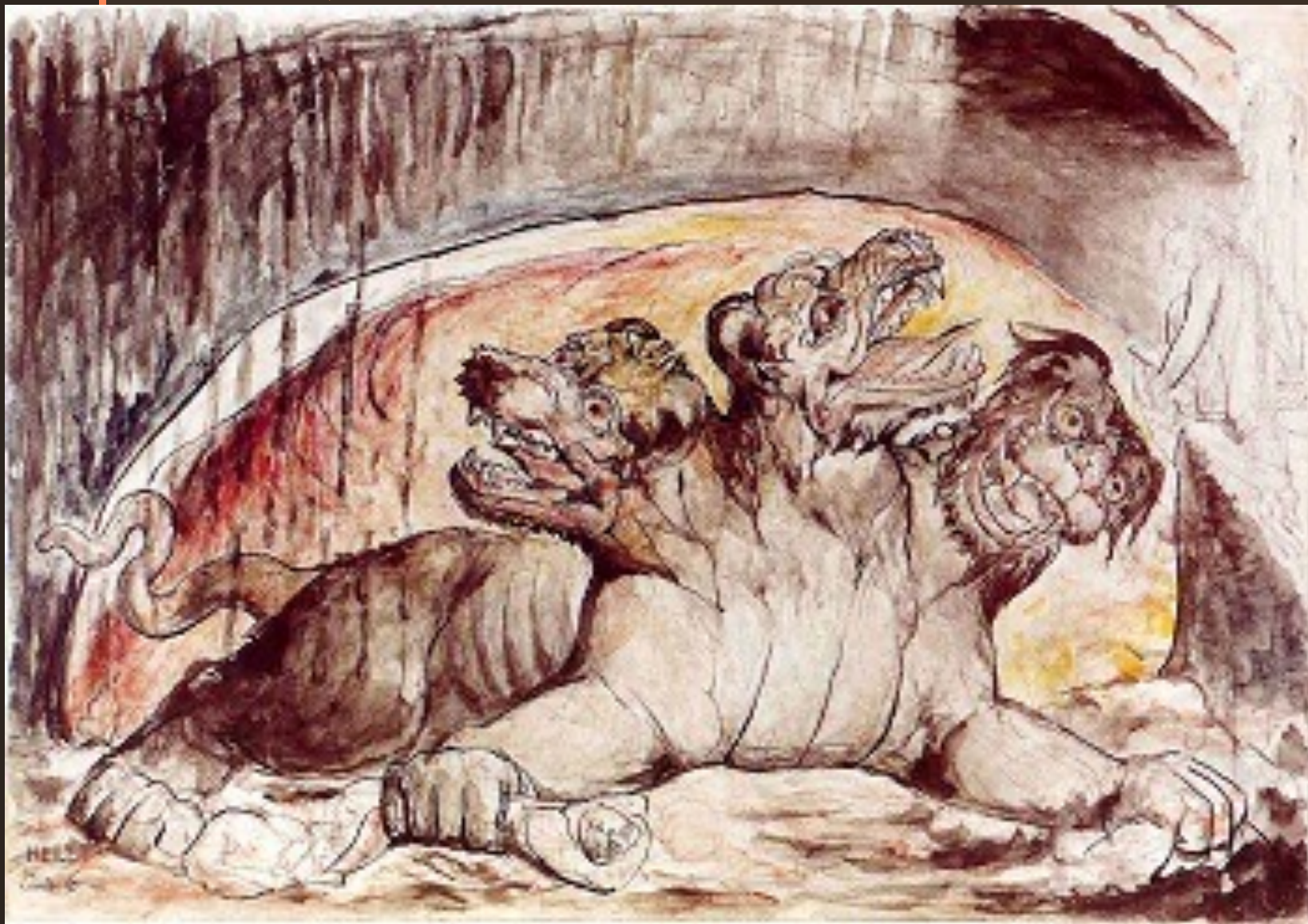


Canto VI: The Gluttons.... “the frozen rain
of Hell falls in torrents...the putrid slush...”



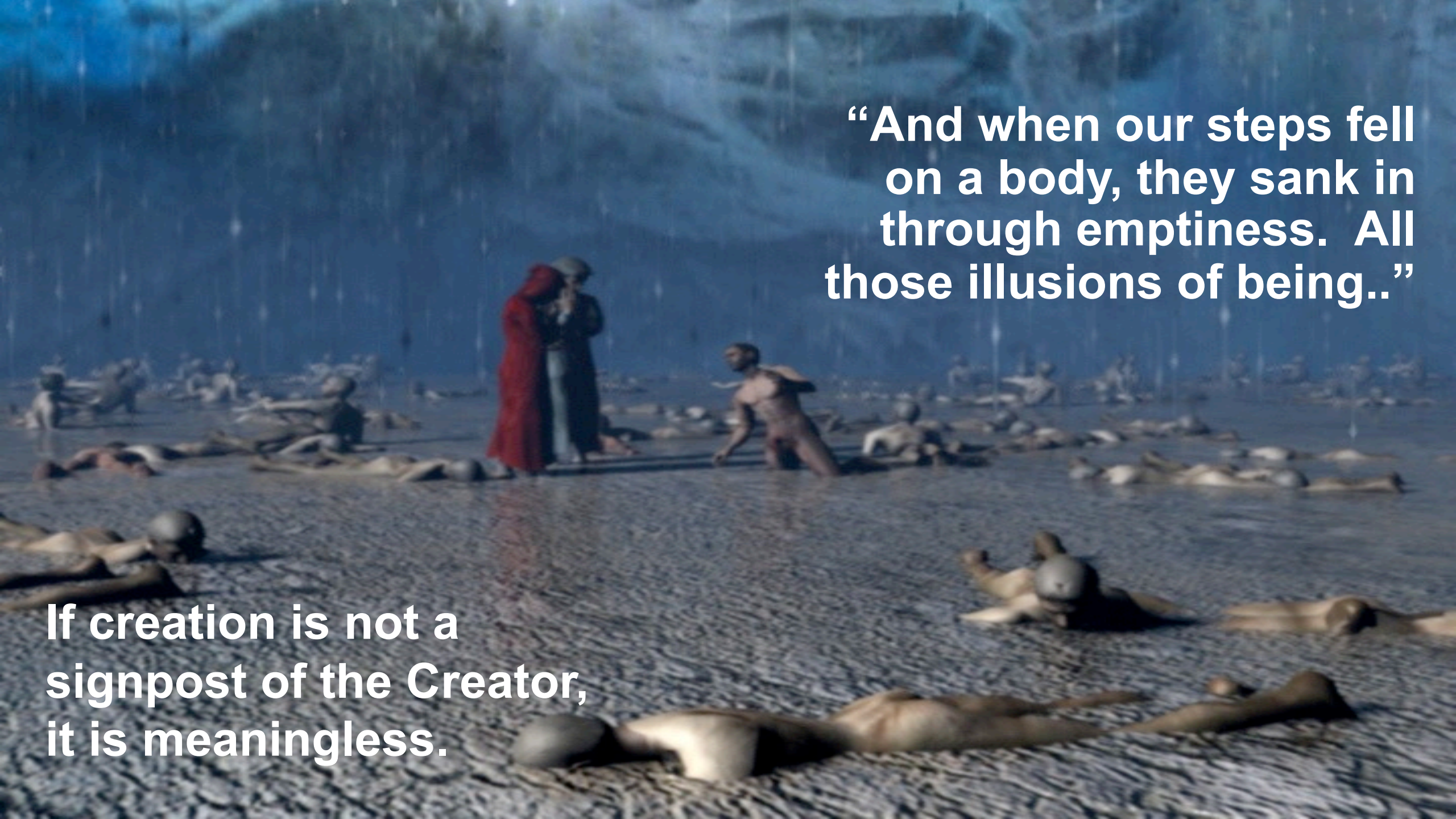


**The gluttons
achieve their desire:
the goods of the
Lord without the
Lord of the goods.
What's left is slime.**



Cerberus

“Howls
through his
triple throats.
His eyes are
red, his beard
is greasy,
his belly is
swollen...”



**“And when our steps fell
on a body, they sank in
through emptiness. All
those illusions of being..”**

**If creation is not a
signpost of the Creator,
it is meaningless.**



What are our throats for?



**“And they too howl like dogs
in the freezing storm...”**

“Yes, Lord,” She Said, “But
Even The Dogs Eat The
Crumbs That Fall From
Their Masters’ Table.”

Matthew 15-27



Ciaccio the Hog

Glutton for
Attention





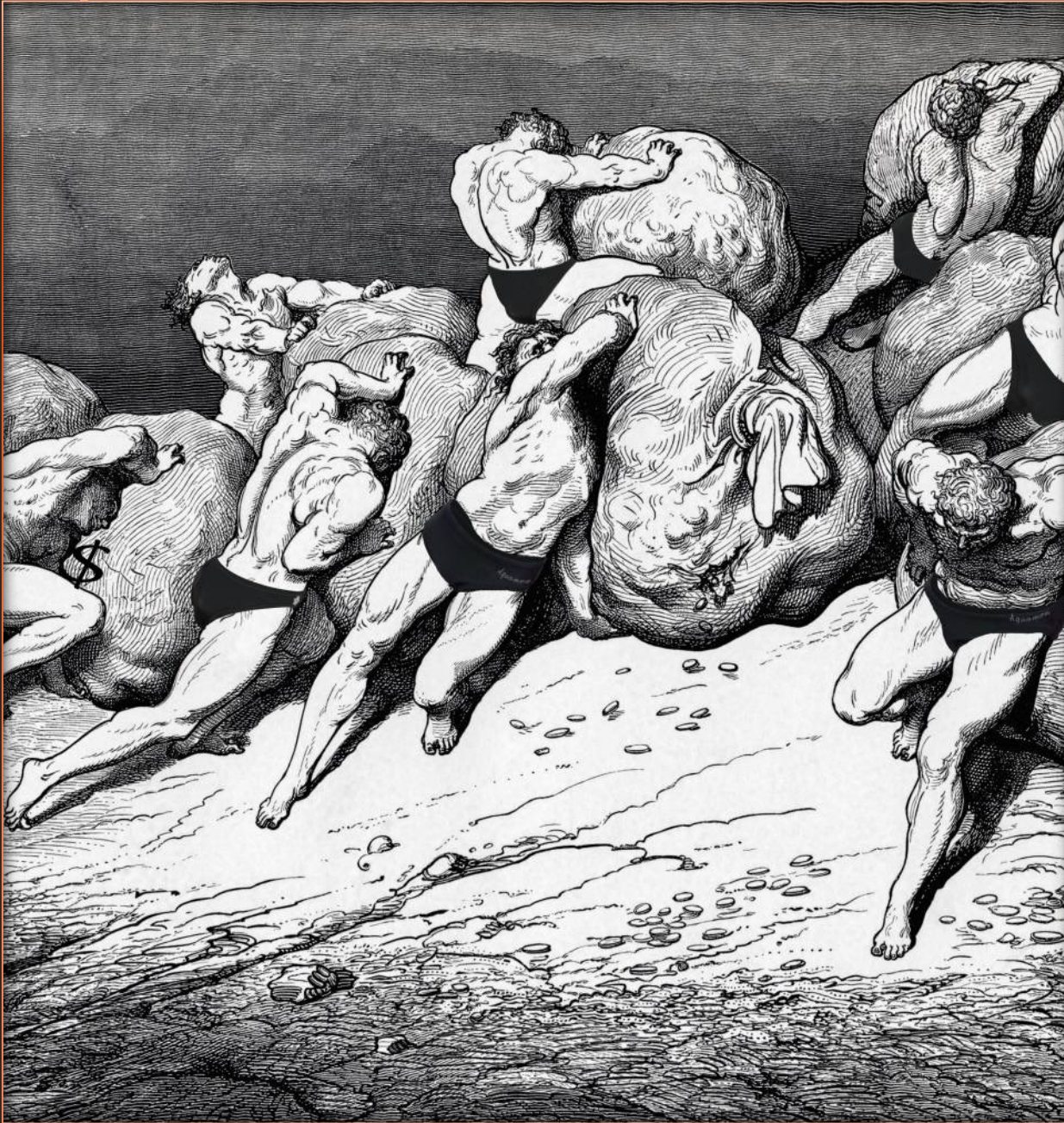
The Immodest:

Gluttons for
Sexual
Attention

Final Redemption for the Carnal?

“As for these souls,
though they can never
soar to true perfection,
still in the new time they
will be nearer it than they
were before.”





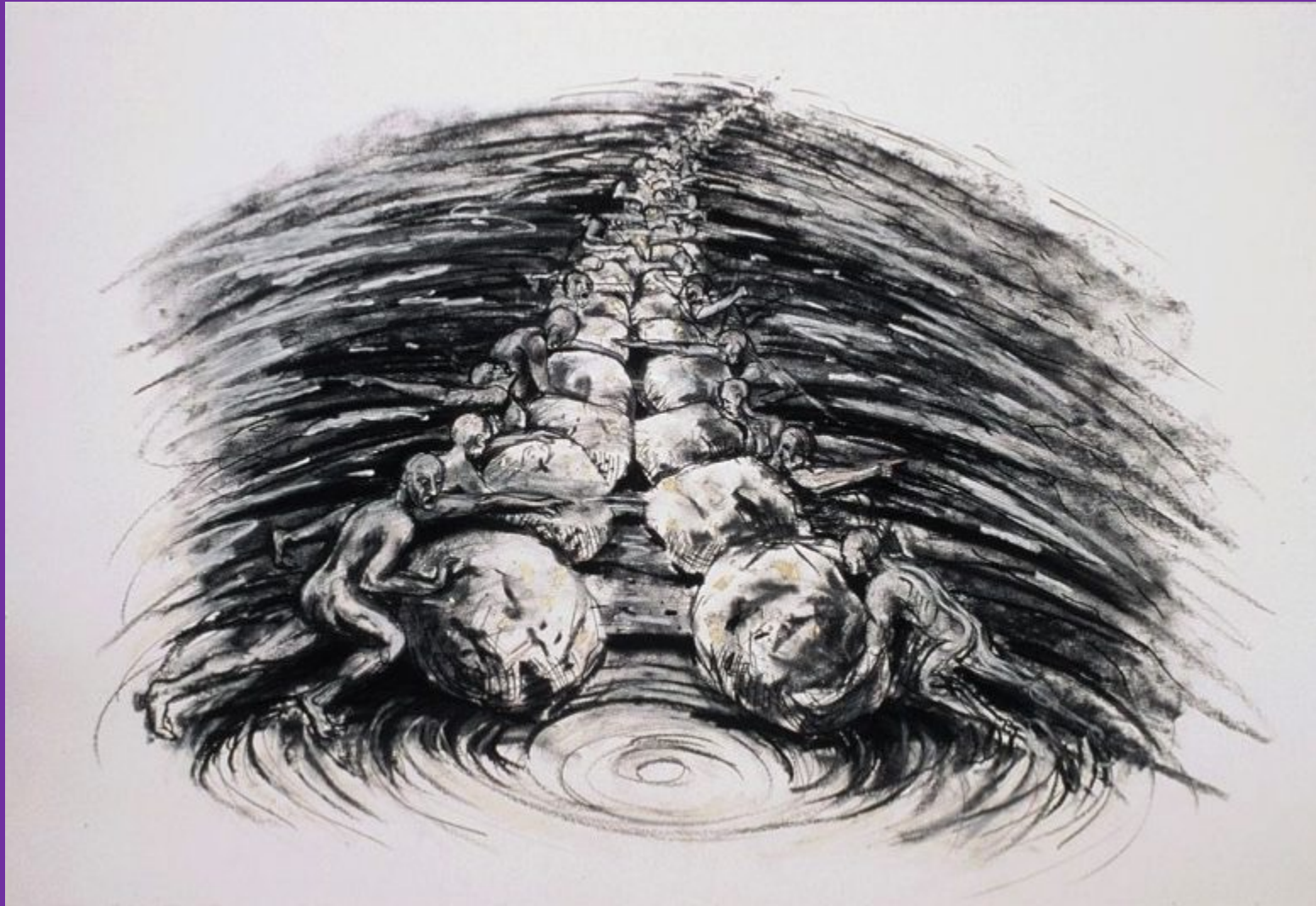
Canto VII: Hoarders and Wasters

“...a nation of
lost souls, far
more than
above...”



“In the first life beneath the sun, they were so skewed and squint-eyed...their misering or extravagance mocked all reason.”

“This is lost ambition.
In their sordid lives, they labored to be blind.”



The Hoarders and the Wasters lose their names to their gold.

They achieved nothing meaningful while they collected or lost money. In hell they are nameless.



The Wrathful



They finally have a real reason to be sullen.



They never achieved anything in life because
they were slothful and critical.

