



Dante's Inferno: Sins of Violence

HON150

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Three Types of Sin

(Dante Alighieri)

✓ **Incontinence** (Level 1)

- ✓ Lack of self control

✓ **Violence** (Level 2)

- ✓ Conscious violation of God's will

✓ **Fraudulent and Traitorous** (Level 3)

- ✓ Using reason and intellect as a weapon



Etymology of Violence

From the Latin:

violation = irreverence,
profanation

vis = force



An act of violence is an attack on human dignity. It is a perverse use of human agency. Violent people are assuming a power over others that they do not have.

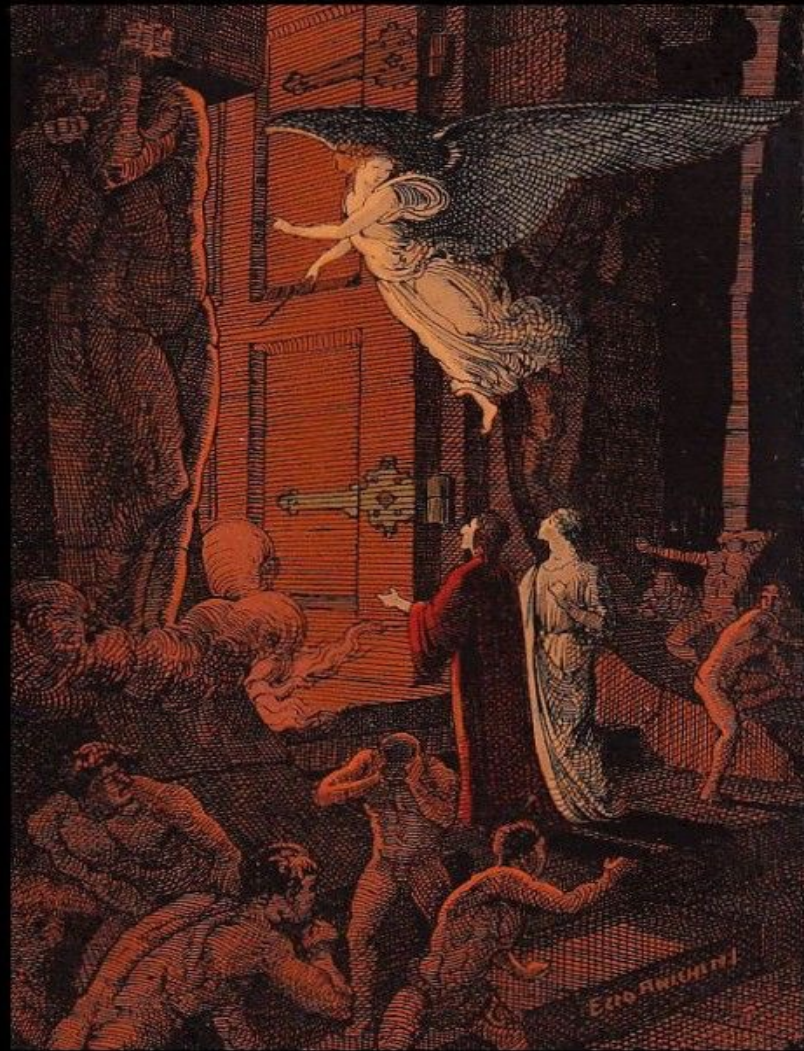
Circles of the Violent – a distinctly different place from the circles of the carnal

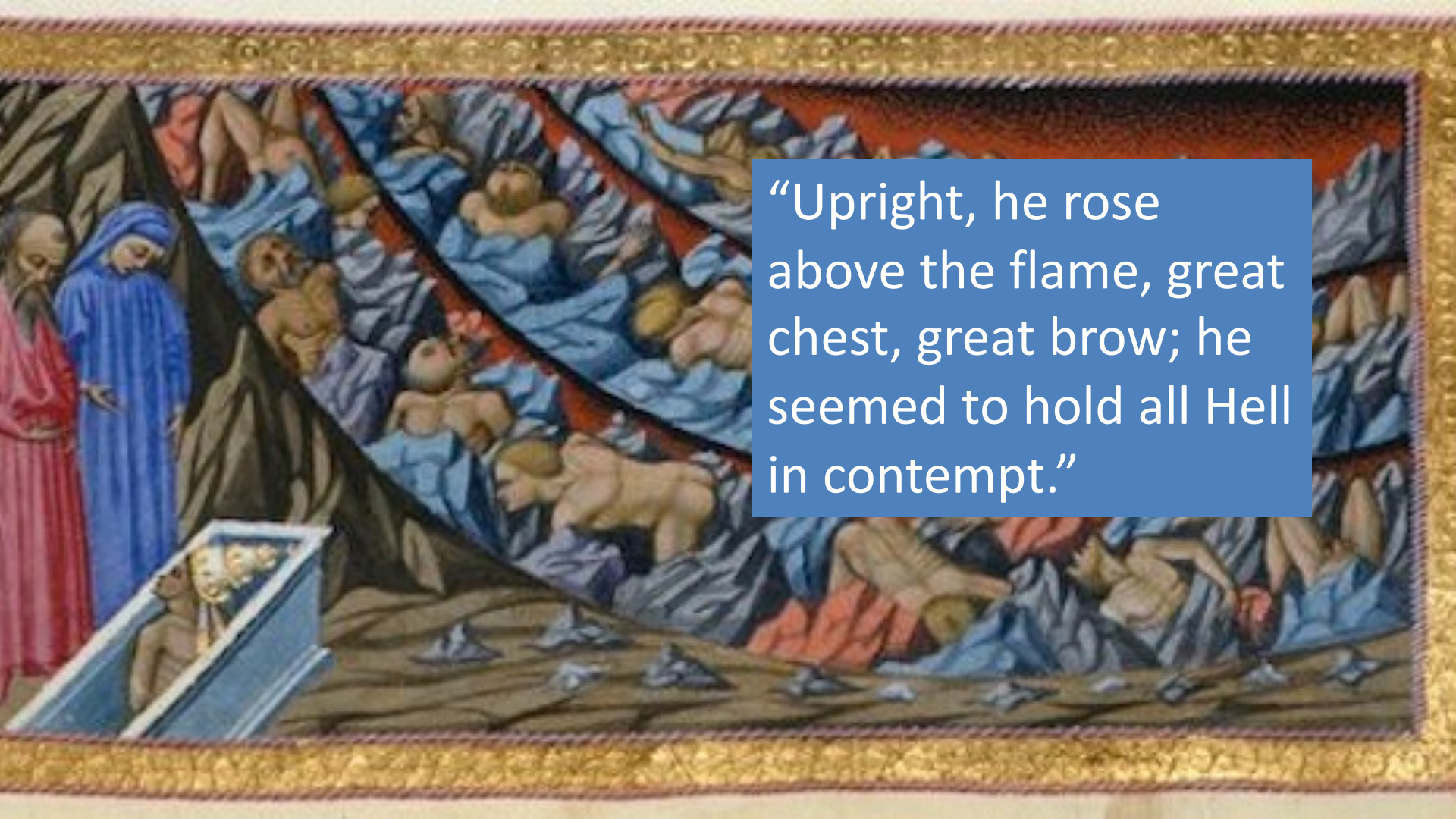
- Truly the stuff of nightmares – The Harpies
- An evil beyond human reason (Virgil); “Cover your eyes.”
- “And here the stink throw up by the abyss so overpowered us we drew back...”



Divine Grace is Needed Here...

- We cannot brood over our anger and lies without God's help.
- “Mind how you speak to him.” (“Don't ever dialogue with the Devil.”)





“Upright, he rose
above the flame, great
chest, great brow; he
seemed to hold all Hell
in contempt.”




The “Heretics” (not a lot) are those for whom religion was irrelevant to them in their life. They dismissed the idea of eternal life.

They spend eternity denying they are alive in their graves.

Dante the Pilgrim:
“If my people were
scattered, at least they
formed again...unlike yours!”

“I am led by him who waits
there, (the great Virgil.”





“We see asquint
the future.”

The irreligious have
no sense of
“the Big Picture.”

They obsess over
minutiae.



Canto XI – More Heretics

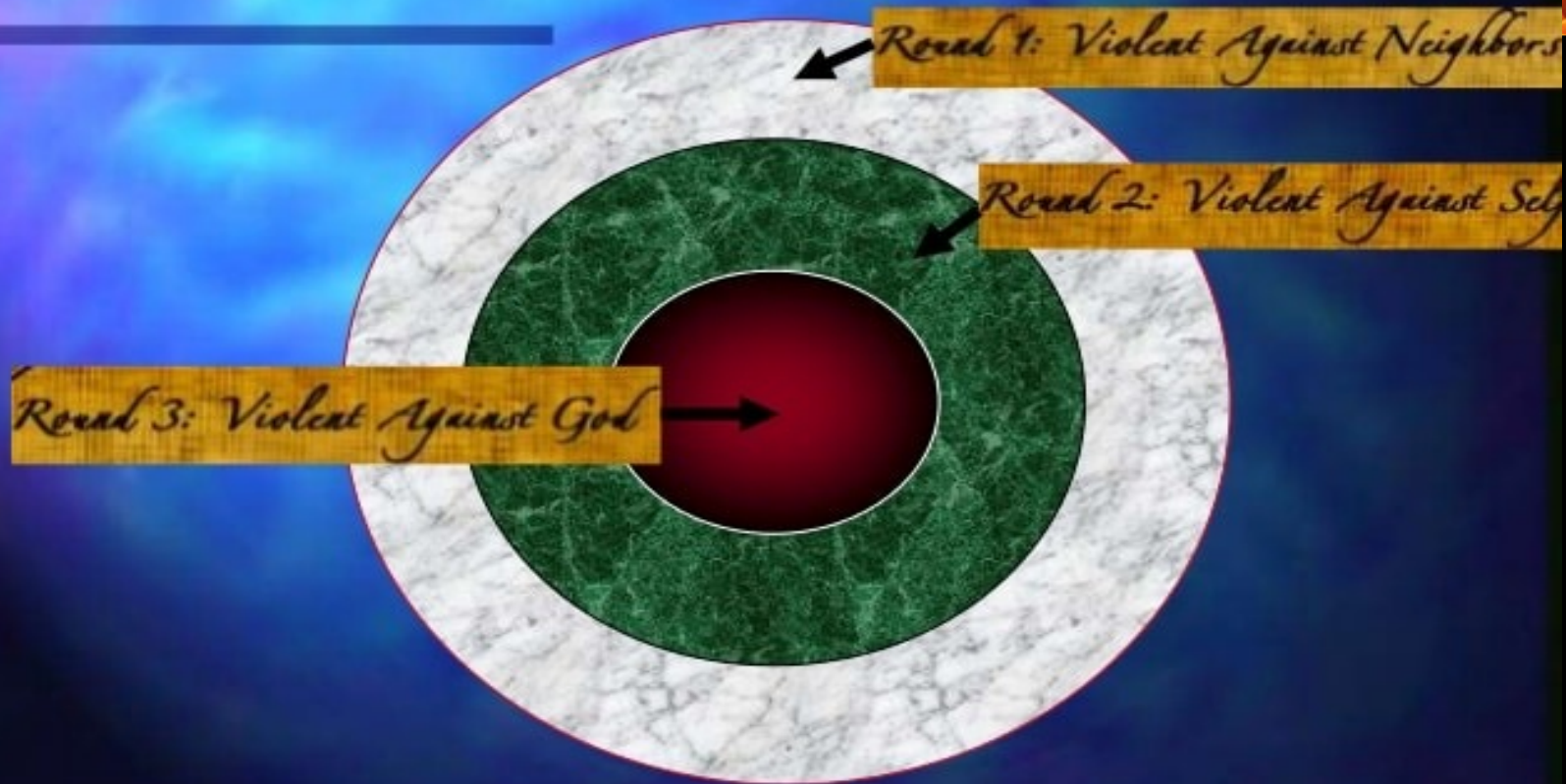
“I guard Pope
Anastasius, he whom
Photinus led from the
straight road.”

He gave Communion
to a heretic.



Circle VII

The Violent and the Bestial





RING ONE

Violent

Forced to swim in a boiling stream of blood

SEVENTH CIRCLE (PLAIN OF FIRE)

RING TWO

Suicides

Transformed into thorny trees that are ripped apart by Harpies

RING THREE

Blasphemers / Sodomites / Usurers

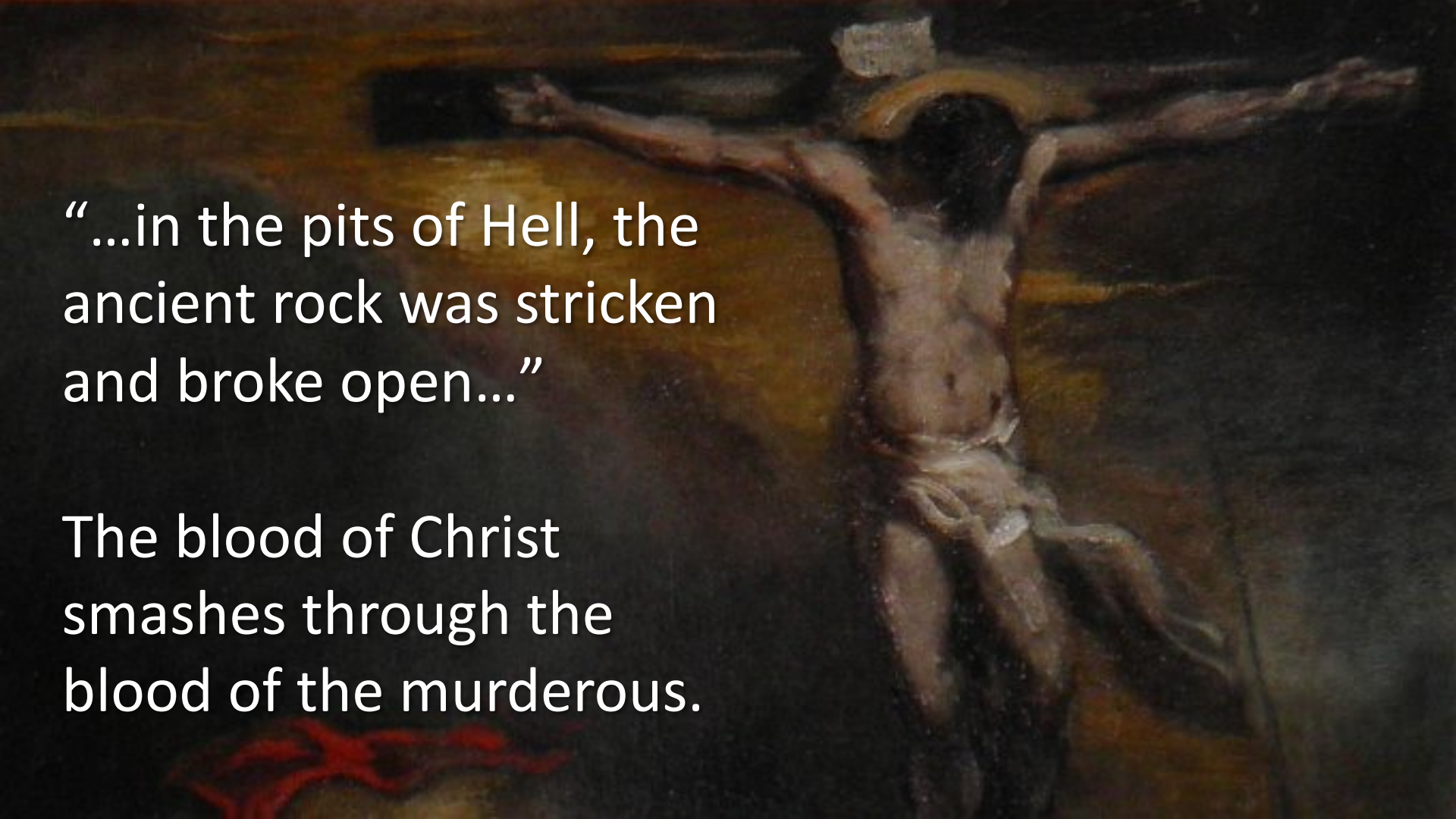
Condemned to a desert of blazing sand with a constant rain of fire

Canto XII – Circle VII Ring One
The Violent Against Neighbors



The Minotaur - The
head of a bull on
the torso of a man.

Monstrous rage



“...in the pits of Hell, the
ancient rock was stricken
and broke open...”

The blood of Christ
smashes through the
blood of the murderous.

Outer ring –
housing the violent
against people and
property, who are
immersed in
Phlegethon – a river
of boiling blood, to a
level commensurate
with their sins.



The centaurs attack the souls in boiling blood



“These were the kings of bloodshed and despoilment...
...the place where tyrants stew.”


They get to wallow in blood for all eternity.

Middle ring –
In this ring are the
suicides, who are
transformed into
gnarled thorny
bushes and trees.

**The trees are a metaphor; In
life the only way of the relief
of suffering was through pain
(suicide)*



**The suicides in the forest*



“...it cried,
‘Why do you break
me?!...Why do you tear
me? Is there no pity in
your soul?’”





The Suicides

“I am the one who has no tale to tell: I made myself a gibbet of my own lintel.”

Since the souls have destroyed their own bodies, they are denied a human form.



Pier Delle Vigne

“That harlot Envy...inflamed
all minds against me...Them
unjustly blamed, my soul
made me at last unjust to
myself.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church on Suicide



2281 Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate his life. It is gravely contrary to the just love of self. It likewise offends love of neighbor because it unjustly breaks the ties of solidarity with family, nation, and other human societies to which we continue to have obligations. Suicide is contrary to love for the living God.

The Squanderers and Destroyers of Gifts and Goods



Run naked through the thorny woods
pursued by hungry and angry dogs who tear
them to pieces and carry off their limbs.
Sin: violence of wasting (themselves)

Inner ring –

**All reside in a desert
of flaming sand with
fiery flakes raining
from the sky.**

Violent against:

GOD – *blasphemers,*
Nature – *Sodomites;*
Art – *Usurers*





Raging at God: for His Sovereignty, His order, His decrees for mankind. They get a world without all of it. Empty shadeless sand. "Vanity of vanities."

Blasphemy

“Who is it who sets his face against the fire in scorn?”

“(Capaneus) thinks he may detest God’s power too easily.”



Brunetto The Intellectual

“They stared at us as men
at evening by the new
moon’s light stare at one
another when they pass by
on a dark road.”

“Remember my treasure in
which I live on.” (Not God.)



The Violent Against Nature



“We came to a plain whose
soil repels all roots.”

Homosexuality is violence
against fertility (anti-
natalism). It also rejects
the other sex.

Men without families who depend on them
prioritize worldly achievements.

They become about
ambition and
competition instead
of love and people.



The Usurer's Ledge



Usury

**Rebelling
against
work.**

