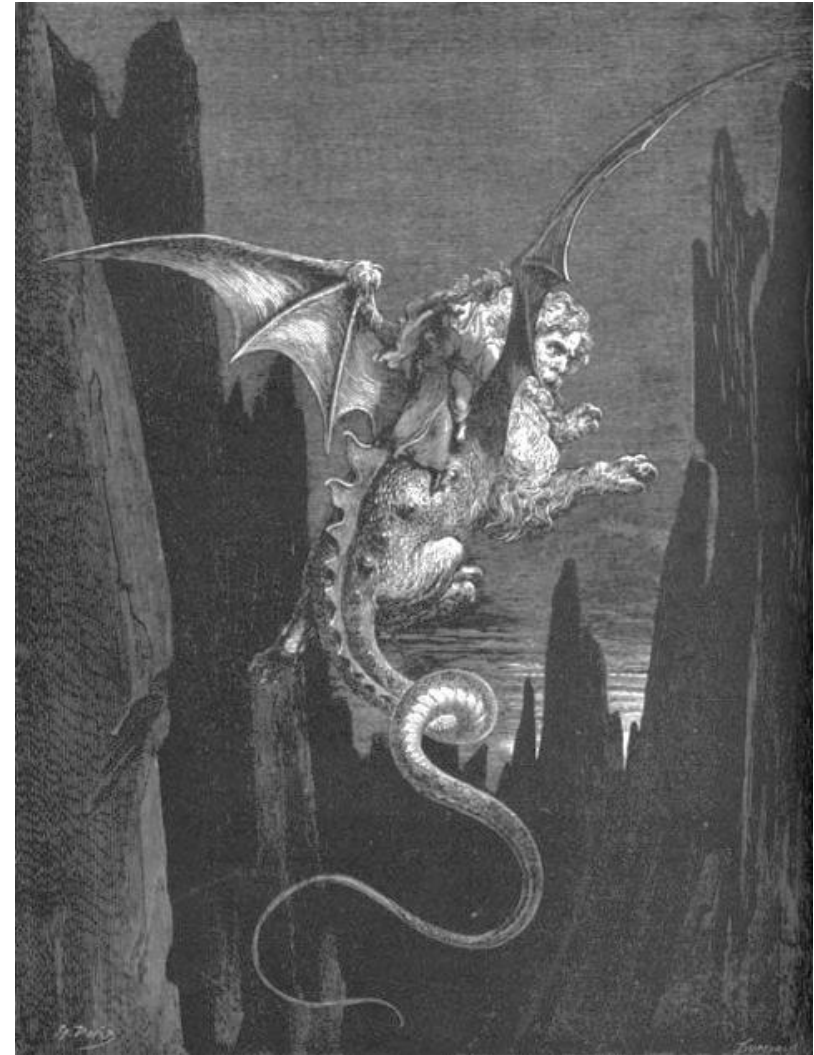


Dante's Inferno

Circles 8-9

Eighth Circle- Fraud

- The last two circles of Hell can only be reached by descending a vast cliff
- Dante and Virgil ride on the back of Geryon, a winged monster traditionally represented as having three heads or three conjoined bodies.
- This circle is named Malebolge ("Evil Pockets").
- Malebolge is divided into ten *Bolgie*, or ditches of stone, with bridges spanning the ditches



Eighth Circle- Fraud

- **Bolgia 1: Panderers and seducers** (panderers provide gratification for the desires of others)
 - They march in separate lines in opposite directions, whipped by demons
- **Bolgia 2: Flatterers** (exploited others with language)
 - They are steeped in human excrement, represents words they produced
- **Bolgia 3: Simony** (charging money to receive sacraments)
 - Placed head-first in holes in the rock (resembling baptismal fonts), with flames burning on the soles of their feet

Eighth Circle- Fraud

- **Bolgia 4: Diviners** (sorcerers, astrologers, false prophets)
 - PUNISHMENT: Their heads are twisted backwards
 - QUOTE: They "found it necessary to walk backward, / because they could not see ahead of them."
- **Bolgia 5: Grafters** (corrupt politicians, bribe takers)
 - PUNISHMENT: Immersed in a lake of boiling tar
 - EXPLANATION: Represents sticky fingers and secrets of corrupt deals
- **Bolgia 6: Hypocrites**
 - PUNISHMENT: Walk listlessly wearing gilded lead cloaks
 - EXPLANATION: Their falseness weighs them down

Eight Circle- Fraud

■ Bolgia 7: Thieves

- **MINI-BOSS:** Centaur Cacus, has a fire-breathing dragon on his shoulders and snakes covering his back.
- **PUNISHMENT:** Thieves are bitten by snakes and lizards. The bites make them undergo various transformations.
- **EXPLANATION:** Just as they stole other people's things in life, their identity is subject to theft.

ALLUSIONS:

- Vanni Fucci is turned to ashes and resurrected
- Agnello is blended with the six-legged reptile Cianfa
- Buoso exchanges shapes with the four-legged Francesco

Eight Circle- Fraud

■ **Bolgia 8: Evil Counselors**

- **PUNISHMENT:** Concealed within individual flames.
- **EXPLANATION:** They used their position to advise others to engage in fraud.
- **ALLUSION:** Ulysses and Diomedes are here for the Trojan Horse.

■ **Bolgia 9: Schismatics** (sowers of discord)

- **PUNISHMENT:** A sword-wielding demon hacks at them. The wounds heal, only to have the demon tear apart their bodies again.
- **EXPLANATION:** They caused division in others' lives, so their bodies are literally divided.

Eight Circle- Fraud

- **Bolgia 10: Falsifiers** (counterfeiters, perjurers, impostors)
 - **PUNISHMENT:** Afflicted with diseases
 - **EXPLANATION:** They were a "disease" on society
 - **ALLUSION:** Potiphar's wife is here for falsely accusing Joseph.

Circle 9: Treachery

Ninth Circle - Treachery

- **TREACHERY:** traitors, betrayal
- The last circle is ringed by giants
 - Giants bound in chains stand on a ledge above Treachery
 - They are visible from the waist up from Fraud
 - Antaeus, the only unbound giant, lowers Dante and Virgil into Treachery



Ninth Circle - Treachery

- Four concentric *zones* or *rounds* of traitors.
- Traitors are frozen in the frozen lake Cocytus
- Contrasts popular image of Hell as fiery
- Sinners encased in ice to varying depths



Ninth Circle - Treachery

- **Round 1** is named Caina, after Cain, who killed his brother
 - **Type:** Traitors to family
 - **Punishment:** immersed in ice up to their chins
- **Round 2** is named Antenora, after Antenor of Troy, who betrayed his city to the Greeks.
 - **Type:** Traitors to community (political groups, cities, countries)
 - **Punishment:** immersed in ice up to their chins

Ninth Circle - Treachery

- **Round 3** is named Ptolomea
 - **Type:** Traitors to guests
 - **Punishment:** lying down, immersed in ice up to faces
- **Round 4** is named Judecca, after Judas Iscariot
 - **Type:** Traitors to liege lords (authorities)
 - **Punishment:** Completely encapsulated in ice, distorted in all conceivable positions

Ninth Circle - Treachery

- Satan is in the very center of Hell
- He committed the ultimate sin: personal treachery against God
- Satan is a giant beast with three faces: red, black, pale yellow

*He had three faces: one in front bloodred;
and then another two that, just above
the midpoint of each shoulder, joined the first;
and at the crown, all three were reattached;
the right looked somewhat yellow, somewhat white;
the left in its appearance was like those
who come from where the Nile, descending, flows.*

Ninth Circle - Treachery

- Satan
- Waist-deep in ice
- Weeps tears from his six eyes and beats his six wings
 - Wings create icy wind

Ninth Circle - Treachery

- Each of Satan's mouths chew on a prominent traitor
- Brutus and Cassius are feet-first in Satan's left and right mouths
 - Their involvement in the assassination of Julius Caesar
 - To Dante, this represented the destruction of a unified Italy and the killing of the man who was divinely appointed to govern the world

Ninth Circle - Treachery

- **In the middle, most vicious mouth is Judas Iscariot**
 - His head is gnawed by Satan's mouth, and his back is forever skinned by Satan's claws.

Ninth Circle - Treachery

- Dante and Virgil escape Hell by climbing down Satan's fur
- They pass through the center of the earth
 - The gravity changes, causing Dante to think he's returning to Hell
 - They emerge in the other hemisphere just before dawn on Easter Sunday, beneath a sky studded with stars.