

Church History Literacy

Dante's *Inferno/Purgatorio/Paradiso*

Lesson 44

Biblical-Literacy.com

© Copyright 2006 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero

Poet



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero

Poet

Theologian



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero

Poet

Theologian

Social
Commentator



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero

Poet

Major Work: *The Divine Comedy*

Social
Commentator



“Comedy”

Latin: *Comoedia*



“Comedy”

Not “Ha ha”

Latin: *Comoedia*



“Comedy”

Not “Ha ha”

Latin: *Comoedia*

Basically: Story
has a good
ending!

“Poem”

“Poem”

Rhyming pattern



“Poem”

Rhyming pattern

“Poem”

Rhyming pattern

a

b

a

“Poem”

a *class*
b *care*
a *pass*

Rhyming pattern

“Poem”

a *class*
b *care*
a *pass*
b
c
b

Rhyming pattern

“Poem”

a *class*
b *care*
a *pass*
b *dare*
c *too*
b *stare*

Rhyming pattern

“Poem”

a *class*
b *care*
a *pass*
b *dare*
c *too*
b *stare*

Rhyming pattern

11 syllables per
line

“Poem”

a *class*
b *care*
a *pass*
b *dare*
c *too*
b *stare*

Rhyming pattern

11 syllables per
line

This becomes
modern Italian!



Why do we study
Dante in Church
History?



Why do we study Dante in Church History?

Monumental
Christian Writing



Why do we study Dante in Church History?

Monumental
Christian Writing

Theological
Insight



Why do we study Dante in Church History?

Monumental
Christian Writing

Theological
Insight

Inspiration



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero

“The Gates of Hell”
- Rodin (1880)



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero

“The Gates of Hell”
- Rodin (1880)



Dante
(Durante)
Alighiero

“The Gates of Hell”
- Rodin (1880)

Dante Structures the *Comedy* around 3's

3

Dante Structures the *Comedy* around 3's

3 Volumes

3

Dante Structures the *Comedy* around 3's

3

3 Volumes

33 Sections

Dante Structures the *Comedy* around 3's

3

3 Volumes

33 Sections

33 syllable
sections

So we structure class around
Dante's number 3

3

So we structure class around
Dante's number 3

Dante's Life

3

So we structure class around Dante's number 3

3

Dante's Life

Dante's
Comedy

So we structure class around Dante's number 3

3

Dante's Life

Dante's
Comedy

Points for Home



Dante



Dante

Parents die
when young



Dante

Parents die
when young

3d Grade crush
- Beatrice



Dante

Parents die
when young

3d Grade crush
- Beatrice

Family man



Dante

Parents die
when young

3d Grade crush
- Beatrice

Family man

Wrong side of
civil war



Dante

Parents die
when young

3d Grade crush
- Beatrice

20 Years in Exile from Florence

Wrong side of
civil war



The Divine Comedy



The Inferno

The Divine Comedy



*Queste son le anime dei vivi che non hanno
L'ave Maria, e non hanno in salotto*



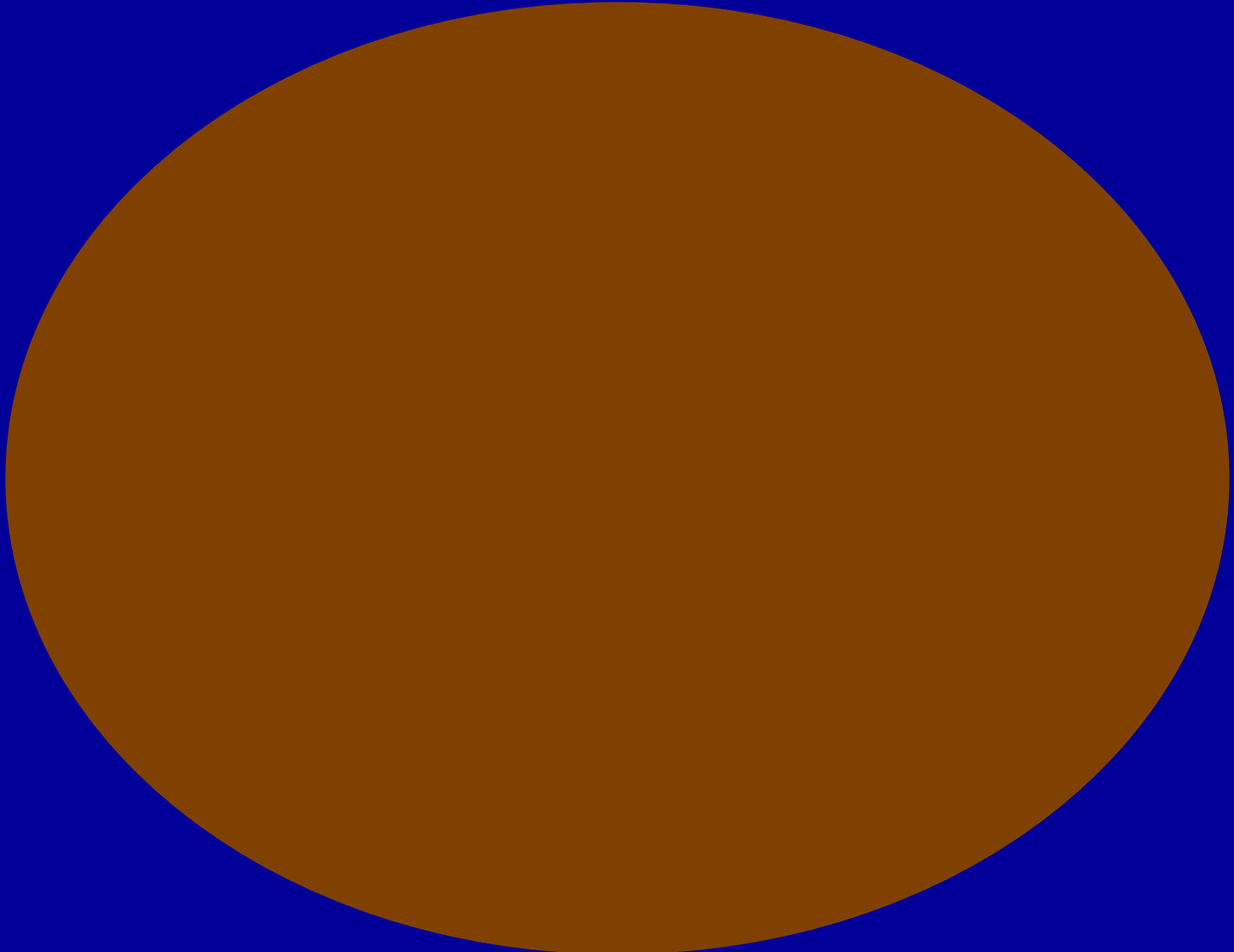
Leave every hope you who enter in



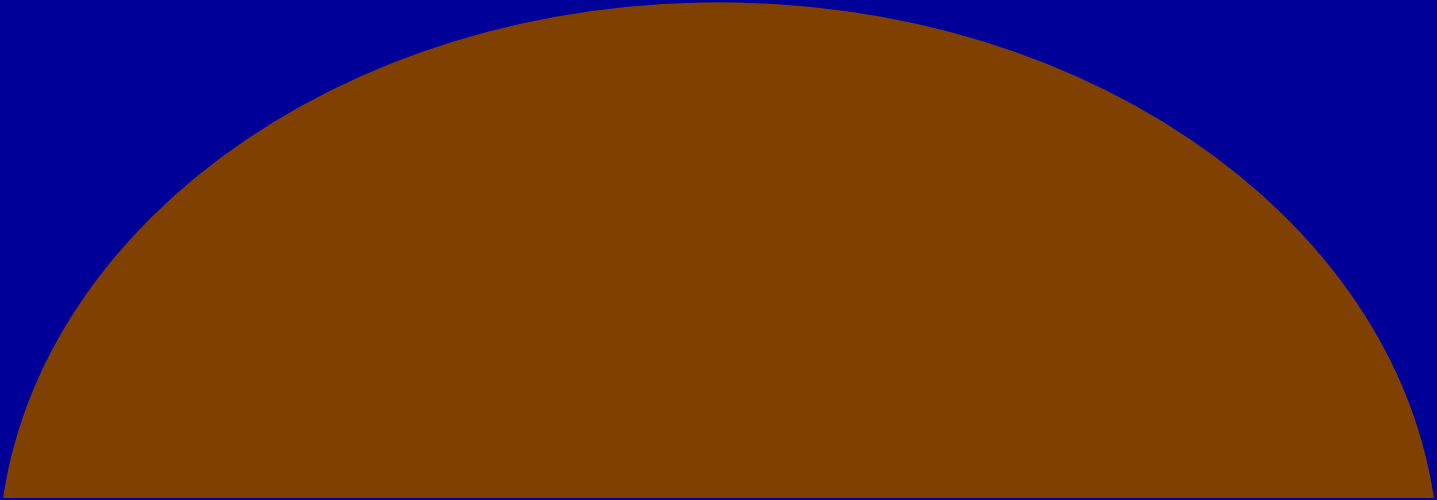
“Leave every hope you who enter in”

HELL Gate 3

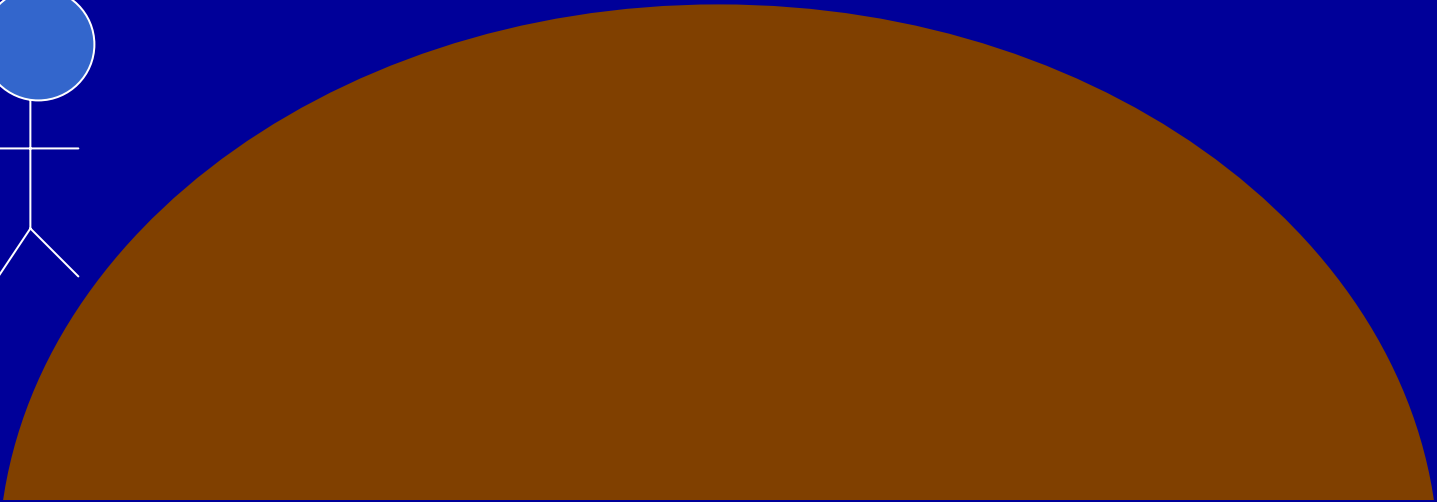
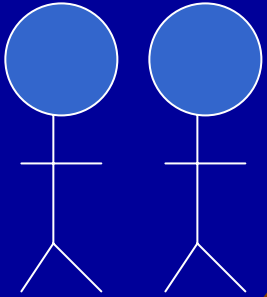
Dante's World



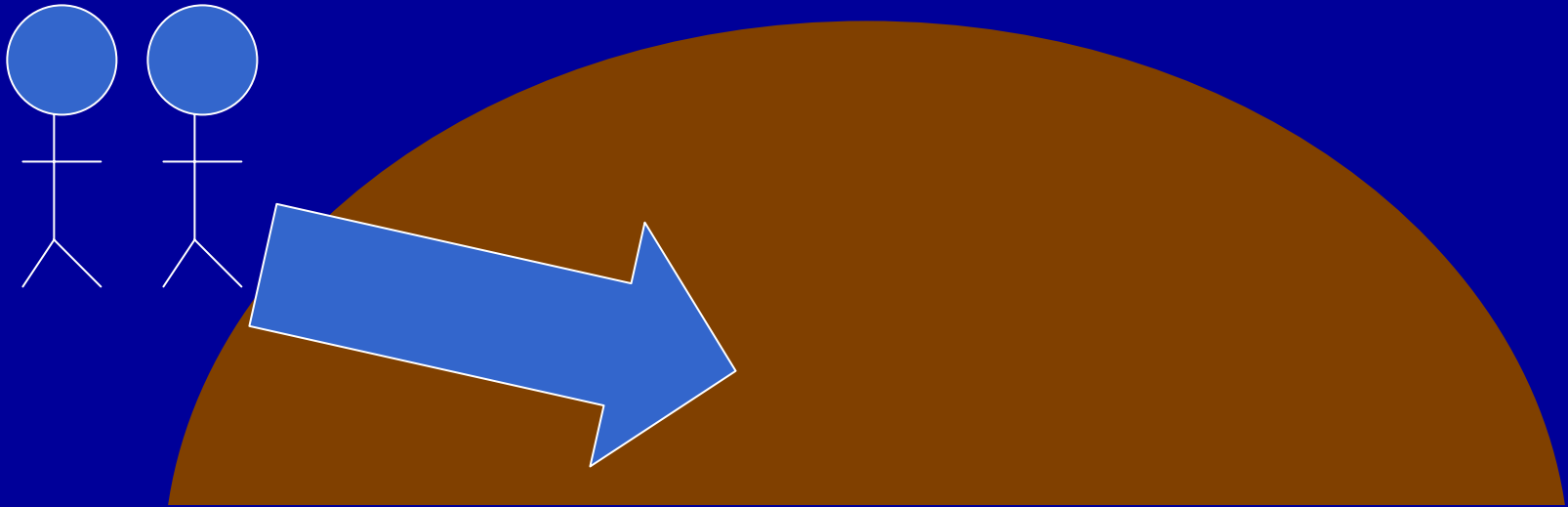
Dante's World



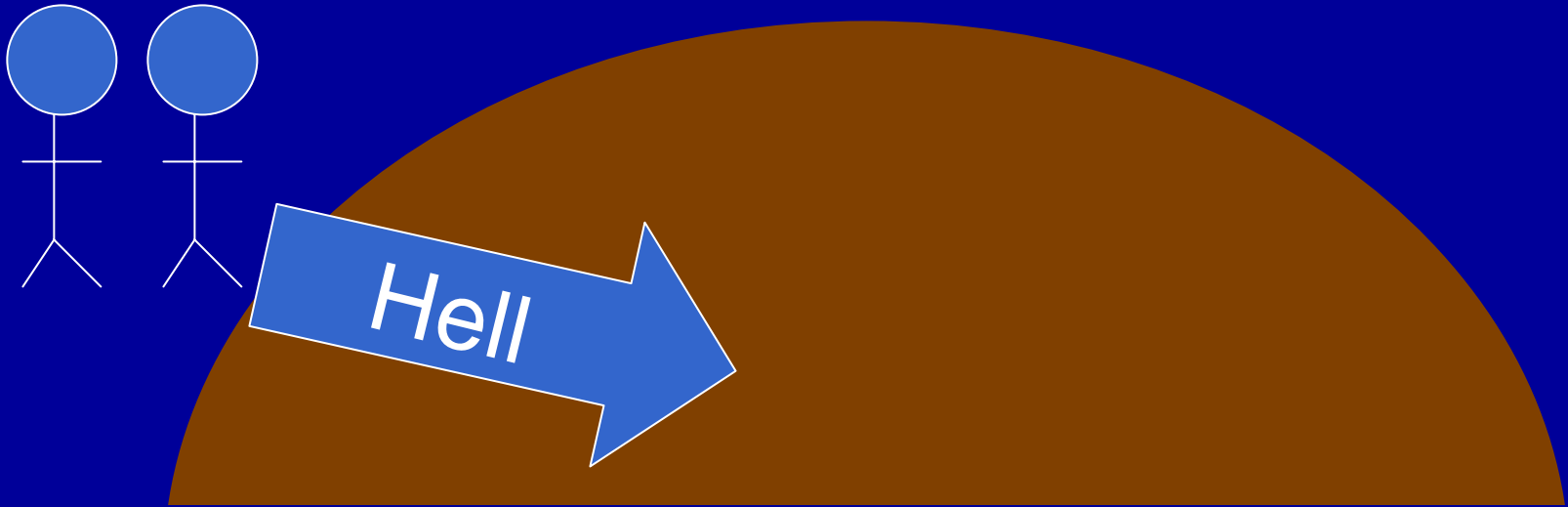
Dante's World



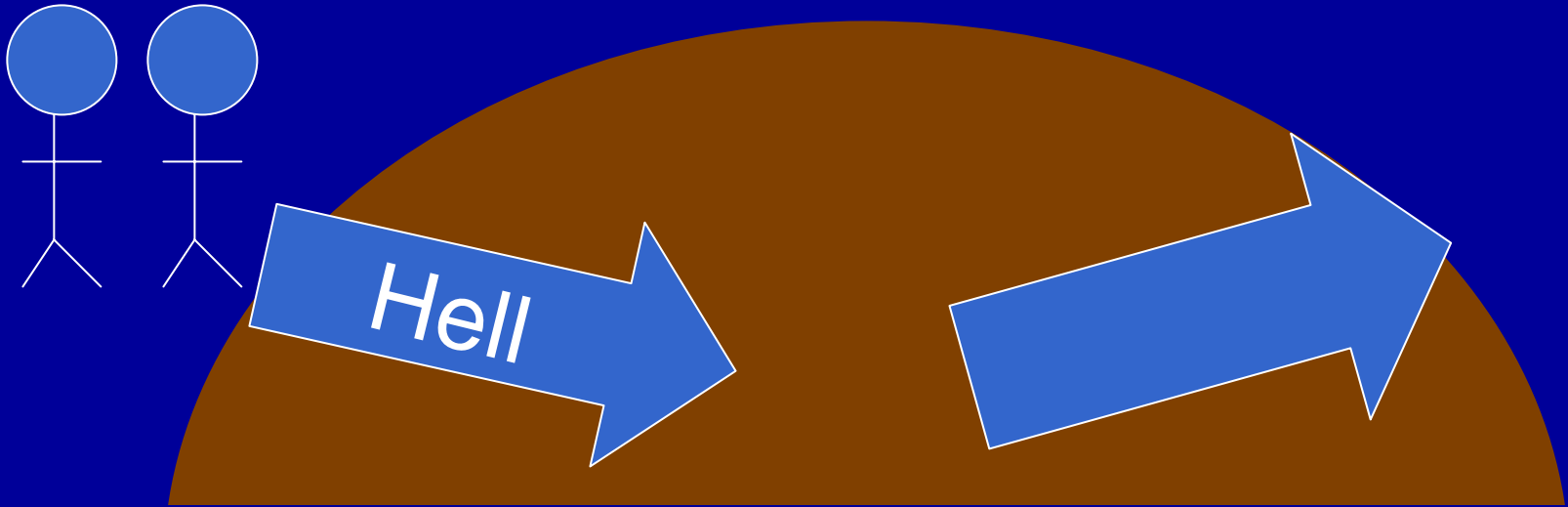
Dante's World



Dante's World

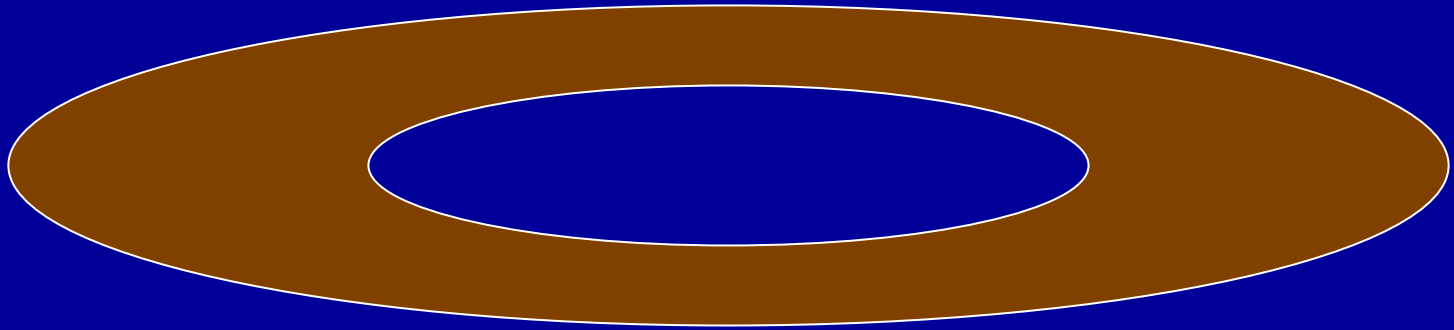


Dante's World

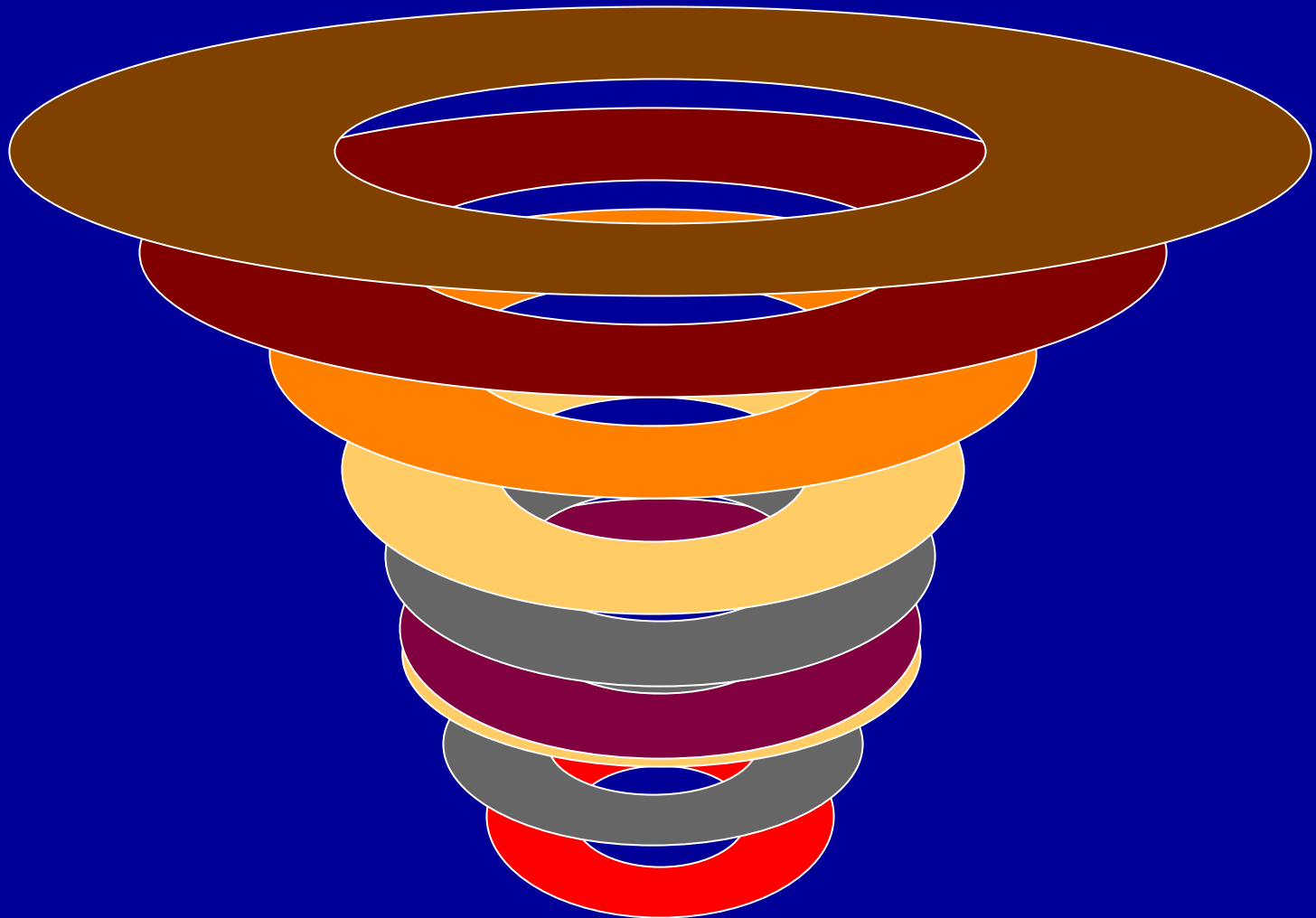


Dante's Hell is in circles

Dante's Hell is in circles



Dante's Hell is in circles



Level 1: Limbo

Level 1: Limbo

The unbaptized



A “hellish hurricane, which never rests, drives on the spirits with its violence: wheeling and pounding”




A “hellish hurricane, which never rests, drives on the spirits with its violence: wheeling and pounding”



“they sinned within the flesh, subjecting reason to the rule of lust”







“filled with cold, unending, heavy and accursed
rain ... Gross hailstones, water gray with filth”

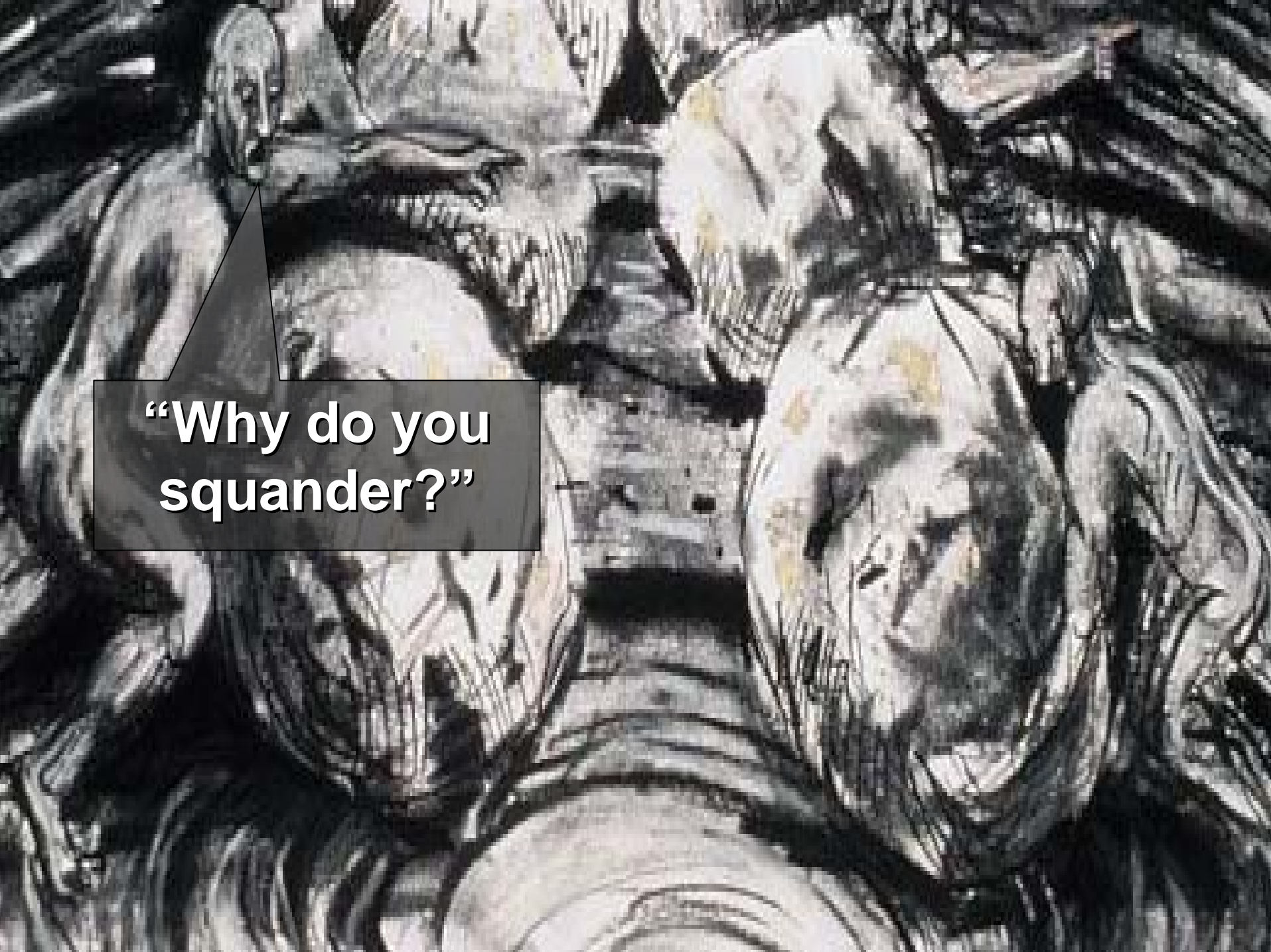


“filled with cold, unending, heavy and accursed rain ... Gross hailstones, water gray with filth”

Life's gluttons ... always wanting more, never satisfied







“Why do you squander?”


A black and white illustration of a large crowd of people, possibly in a historical or biblical setting. The people are depicted in various poses, some looking towards the viewer and others looking away. The style is detailed and somewhat somber. Two callout boxes with white text are overlaid on the image. The first box, located in the upper right, contains the text "Why do you hoard?". The second box, located in the lower left, contains the text "Why do you squander?".

“Why do you hoard?”

**“Why do you
squander?”**

Eternity hitting
“not with hands
alone, but with
their heads and
 chests and with
their feet” tearing
“each other
piecemeal with
their teeth”

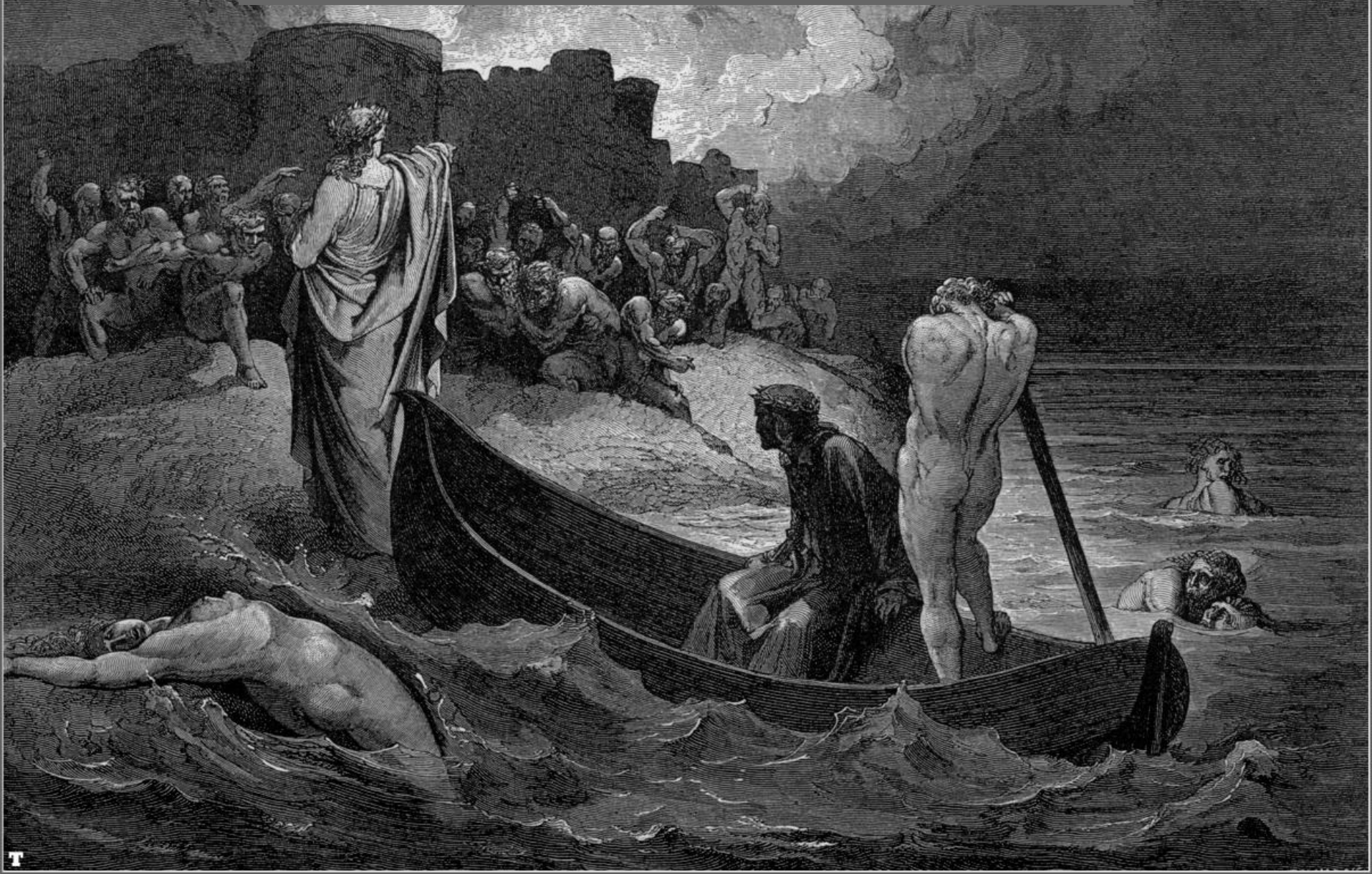


A detail from Dante Alighieri's 'Divine Comedy', specifically the scene of the Seventh Circle of Hell (the Ring of Violence). The painting depicts several muscular, nude souls in a state of intense rage and self-loathing. They are tearing at each other's bodies with their hands, heads, and feet. In the background, a winged demon (Minotaur) is visible, and a figure in a grey cloak (Virgil) stands to the left, observing the scene. The overall atmosphere is dark and tormented.

Eternity hitting
“not with hands
alone, but with
their heads and
 chests and with
their feet” tearing
“each other
piecemeal with
their teeth”

“The souls of those whom anger has
defeated”

Actively anti-God



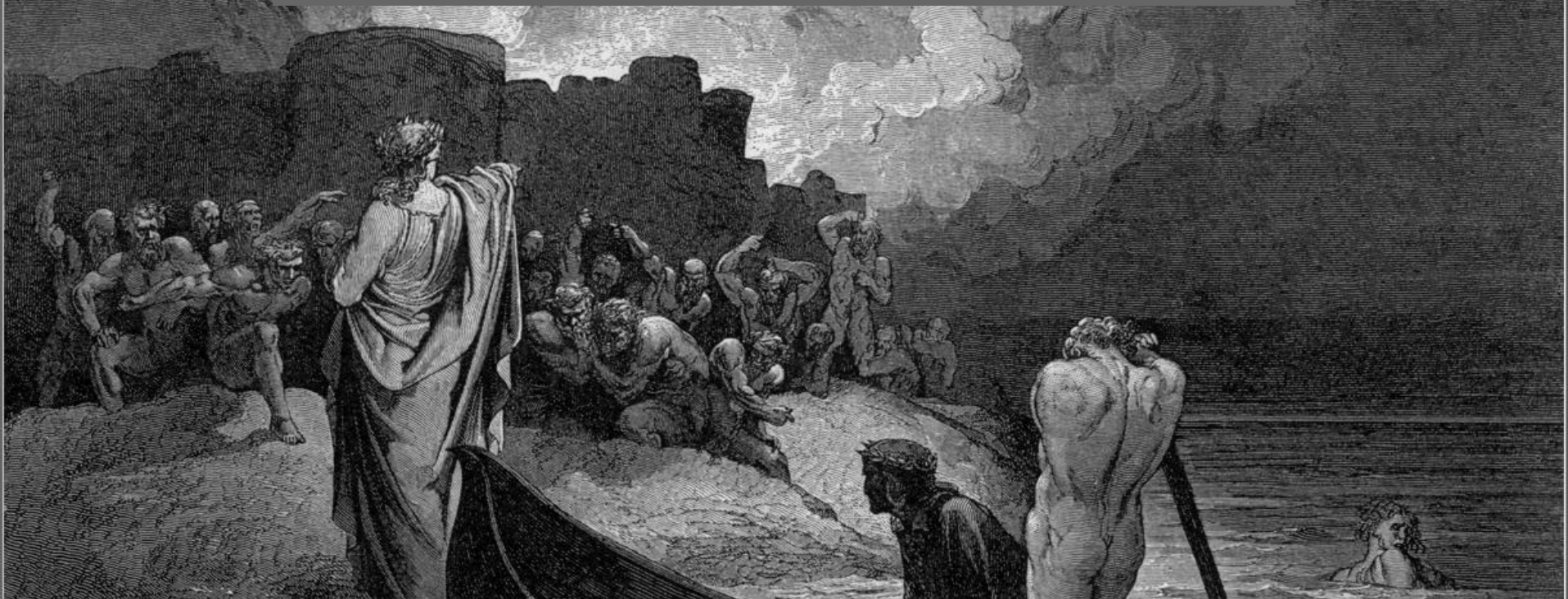
Actively anti-God



6th Circle - Arch Heretics in flaming tombs



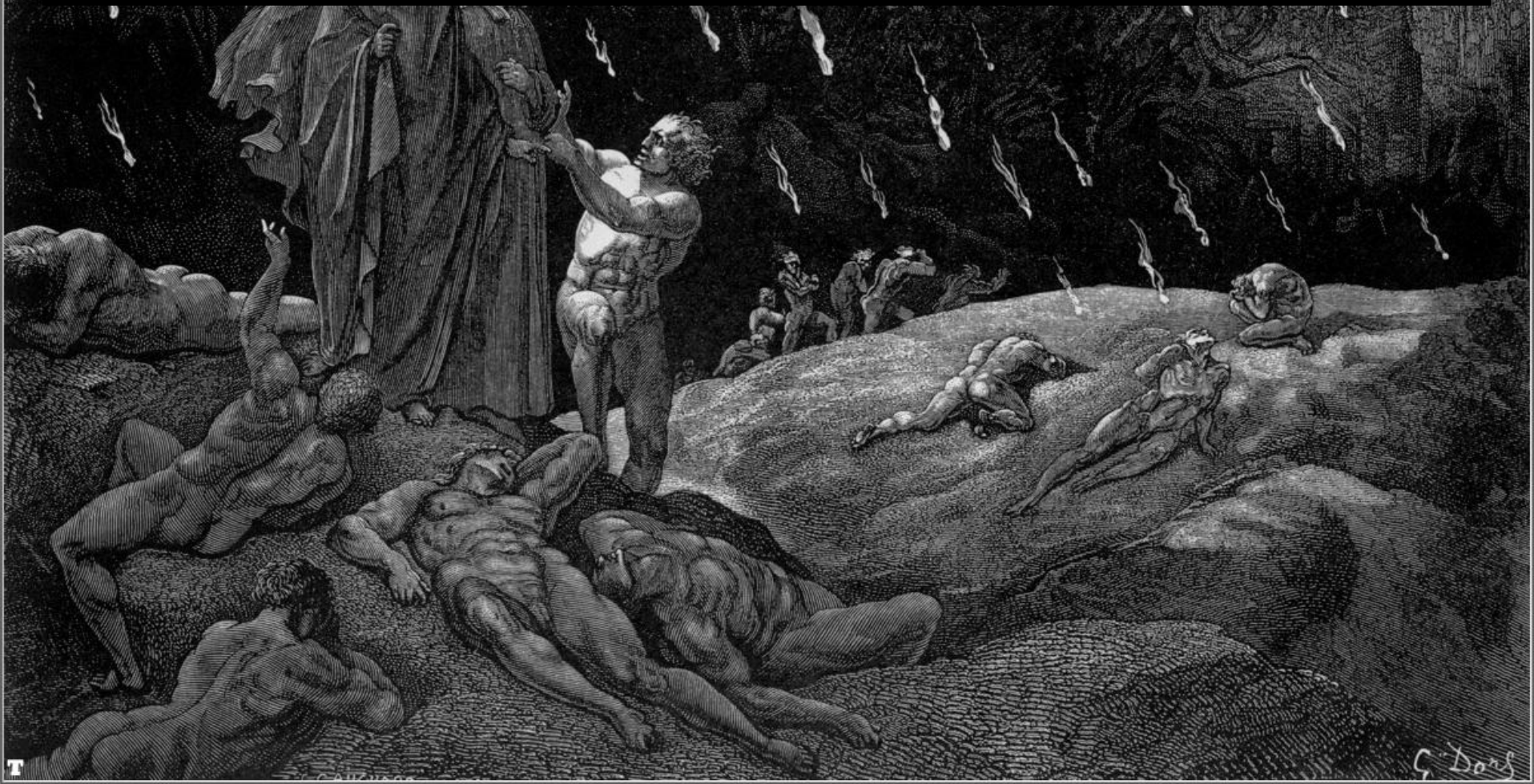
Actively anti-God



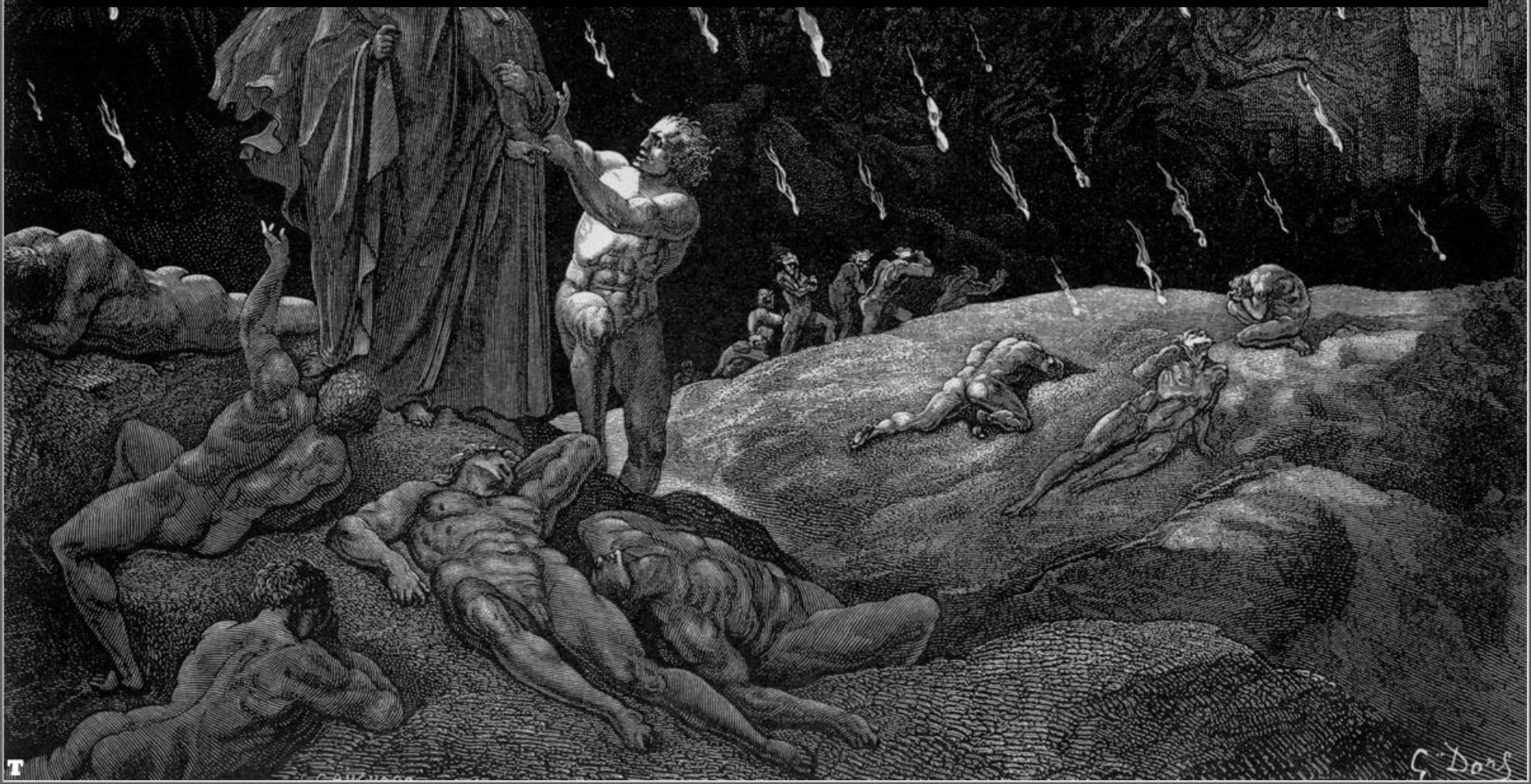
6th Circle - Arch Heretics in flaming tombs

7th Circle - 3 rings of violent

Violent against God:



Violent against God:
Blasphemers eternally on their backs staring
into heaven





Violent against Creation:



Violent against Creation:

Sodomites and Usurers eternally in a burning
dry barren desert

G. Doré

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil



8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Whipped by demons

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Flatterers:

Whipped by demons

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Flatterers:

Whipped by demons

Eternity in excrement

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Flatterers:

Simoners:

Whipped by demons

Eternity in excrement

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Flatterers:

Simoners:

Whipped by demons

Eternity in excrement

Buried headfirst in rock

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Flatterers:

Simoners:

Fortune

Tellers:

Whipped by demons

Eternity in excrement

Buried headfirst in rock

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Whipped by demons

Flatterers:

Eternity in excrement

Simoners:

Buried headfirst in rock

Fortune

Head backwards

Tellers:

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Whipped by demons

Flatterers:

Eternity in excrement

Simoners:

Buried headfirst in rock

Fortune

Head backwards

Tellers:

Corrupt

Politicians:

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Whipped by demons

Flatterers:

Eternity in excrement

Simoners:

Buried headfirst in rock

Fortune

Head backwards

Tellers:

Corrupt

Lake of boiling tar

Politicians:




SEP 19 2003





The Divine Comedy

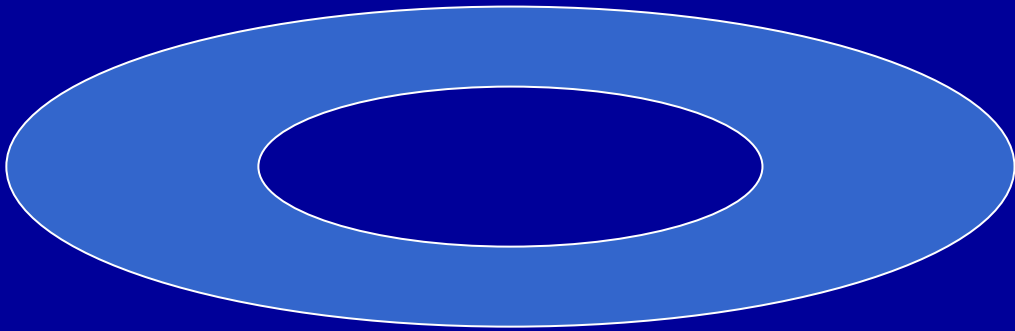


Purgatorio

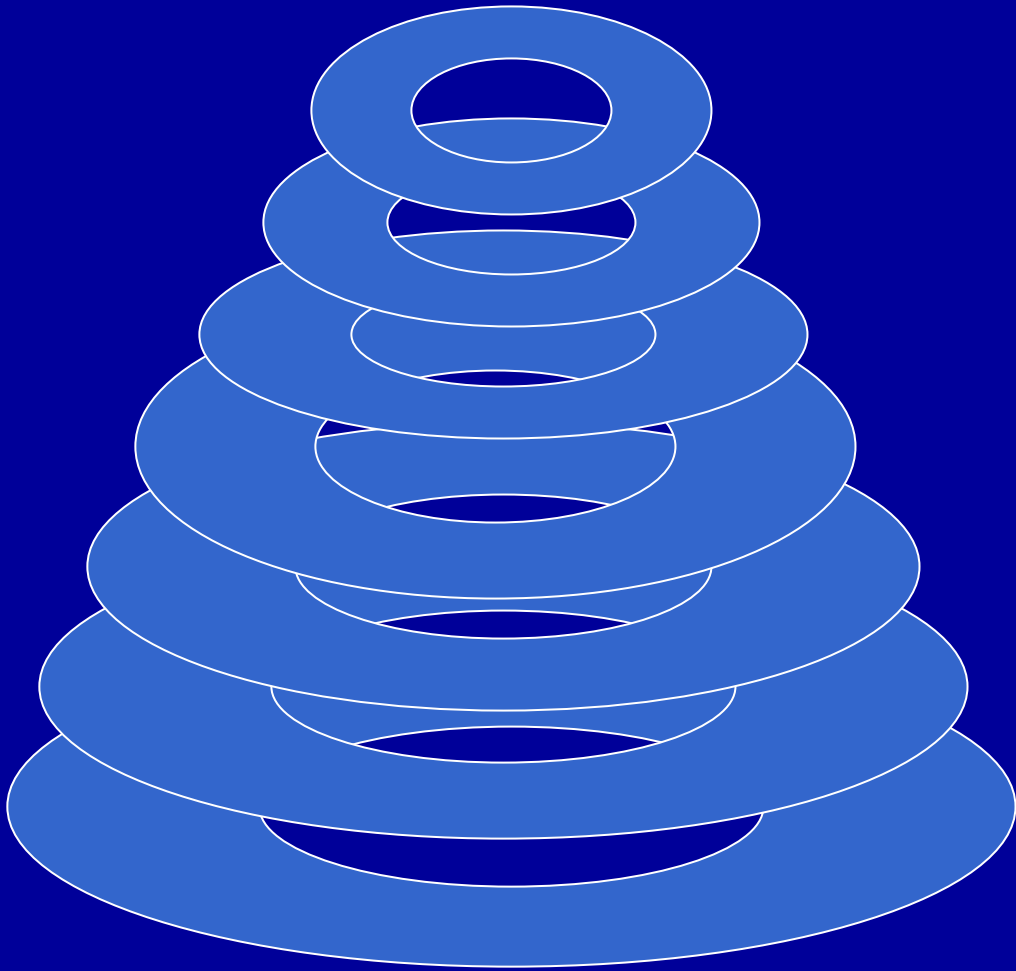
The Divine Comedy

7 Terraces

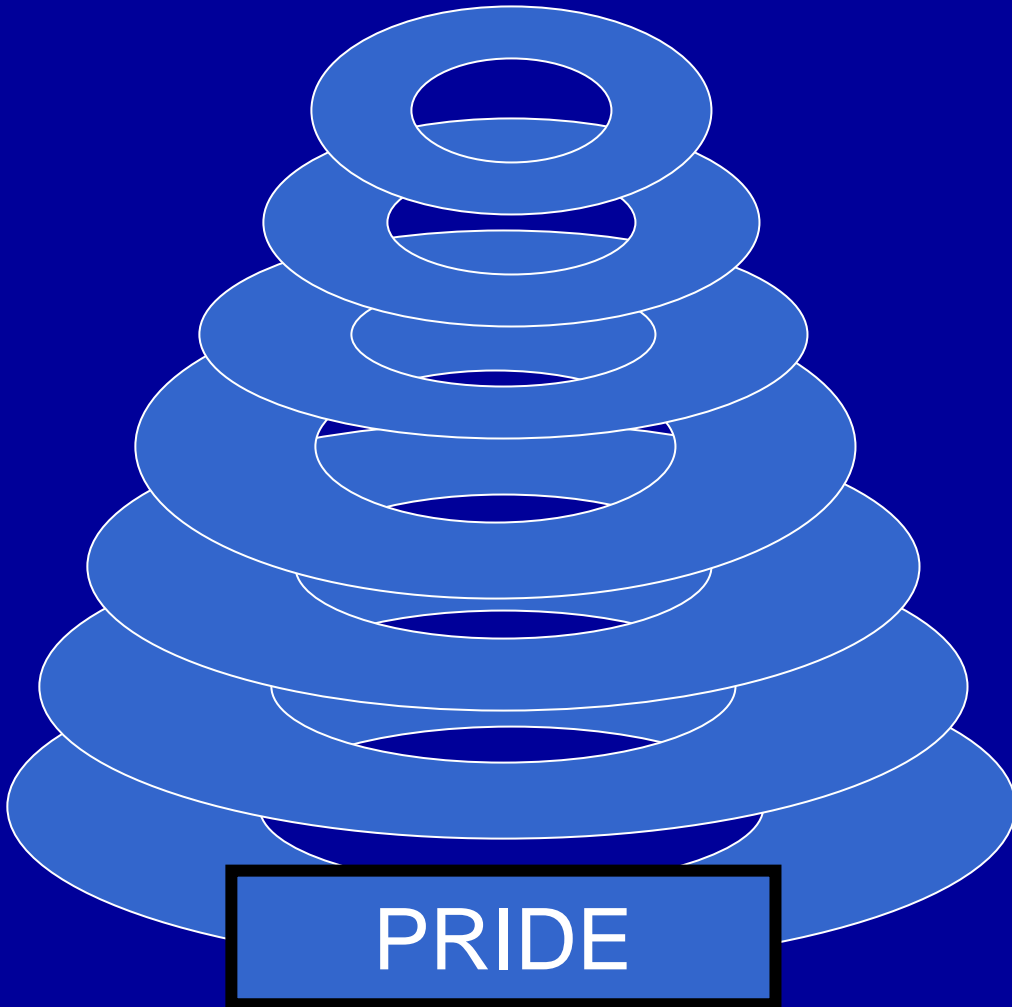
7 Terraces



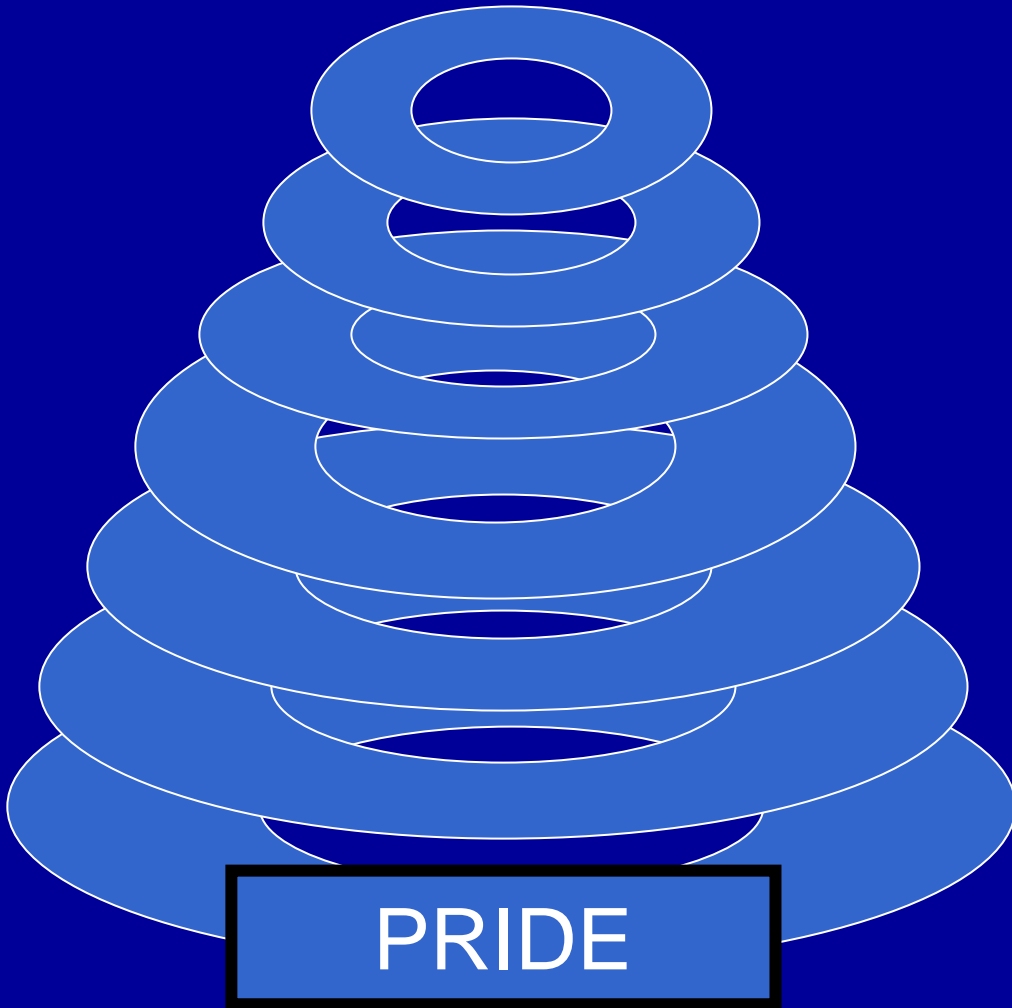
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

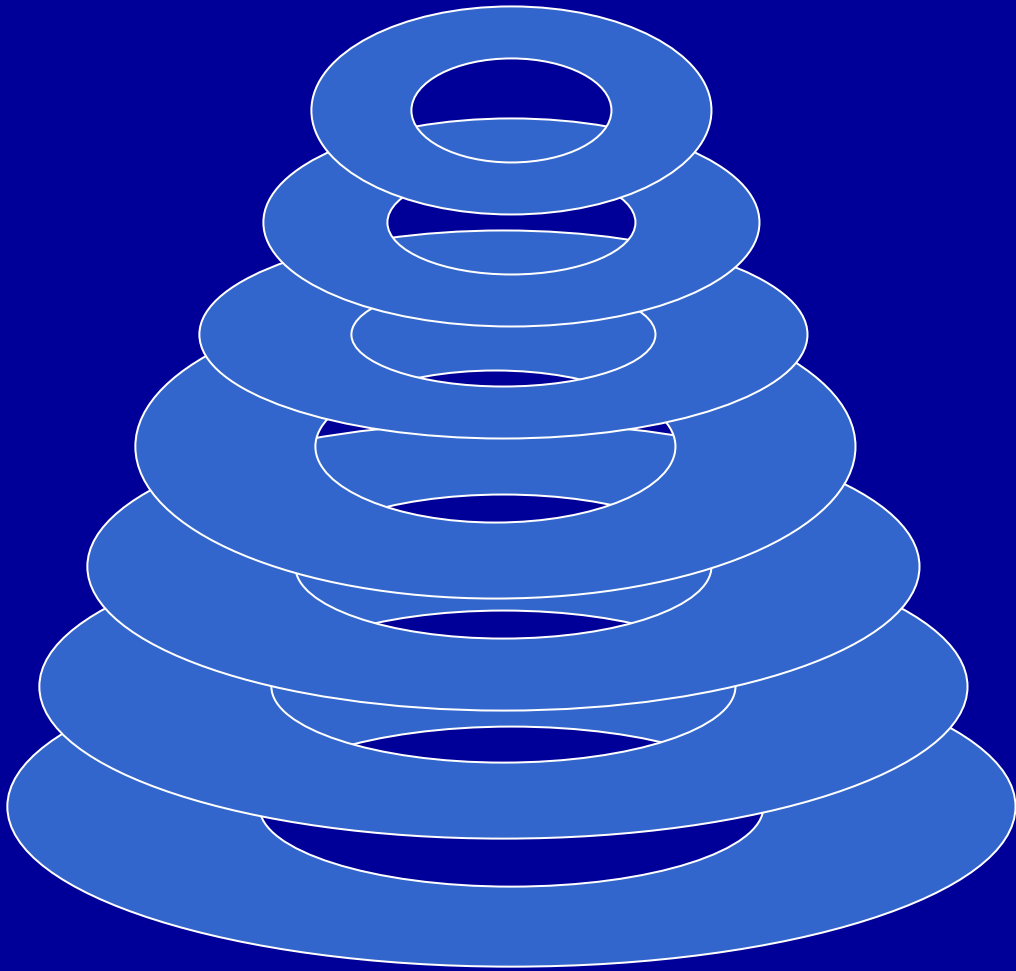


7 Terraces

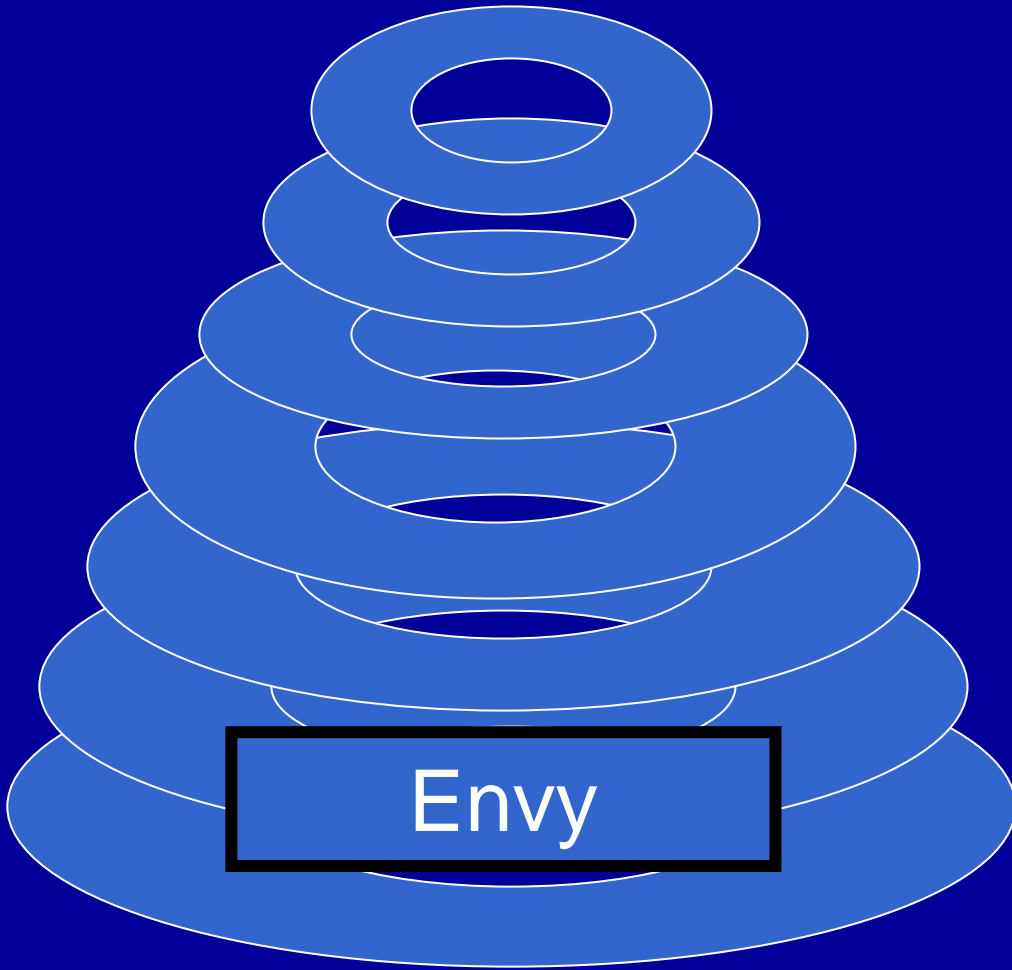


Stones on back

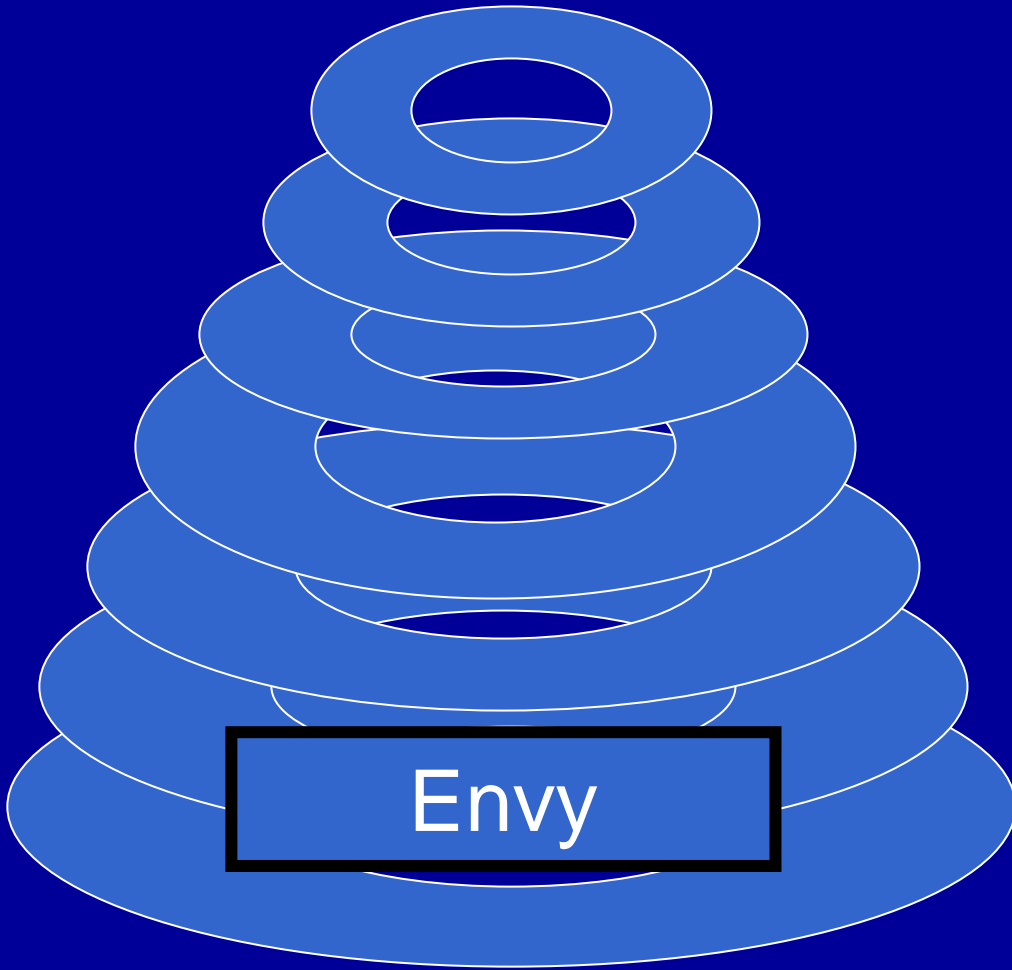
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

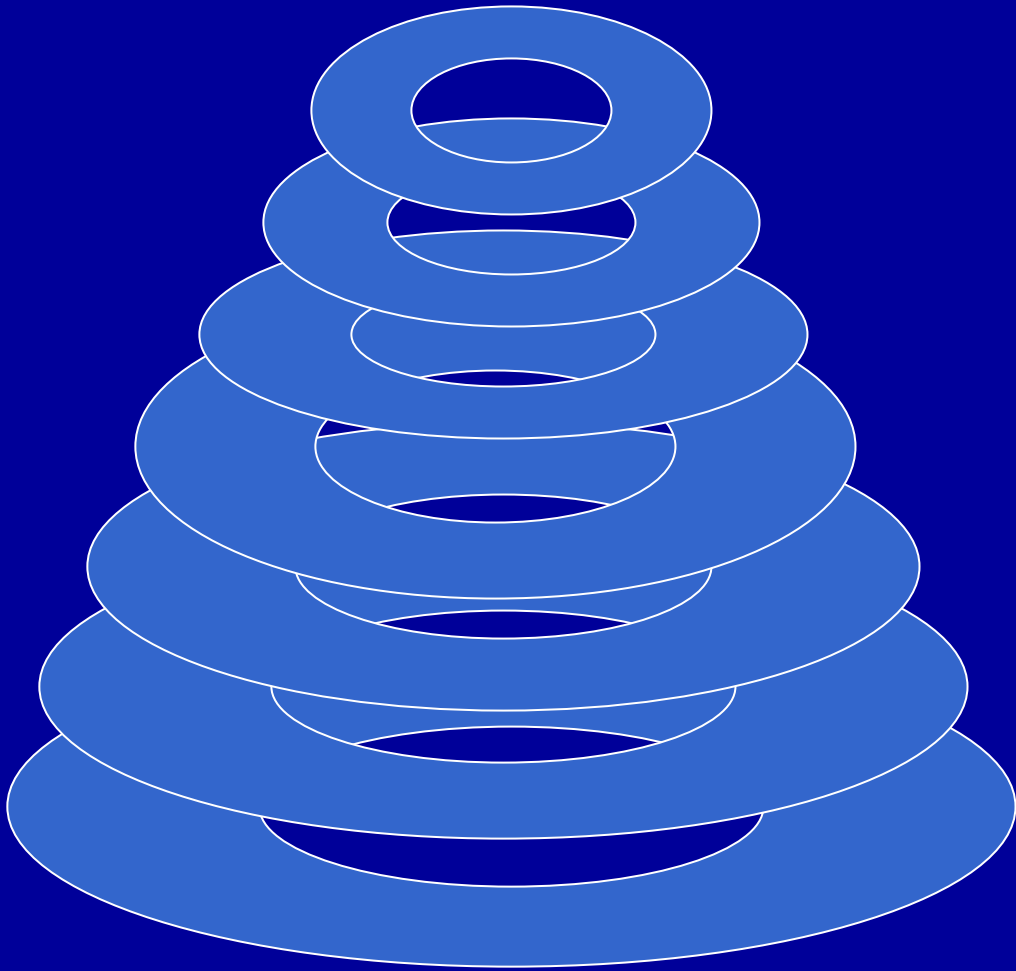


7 Terraces

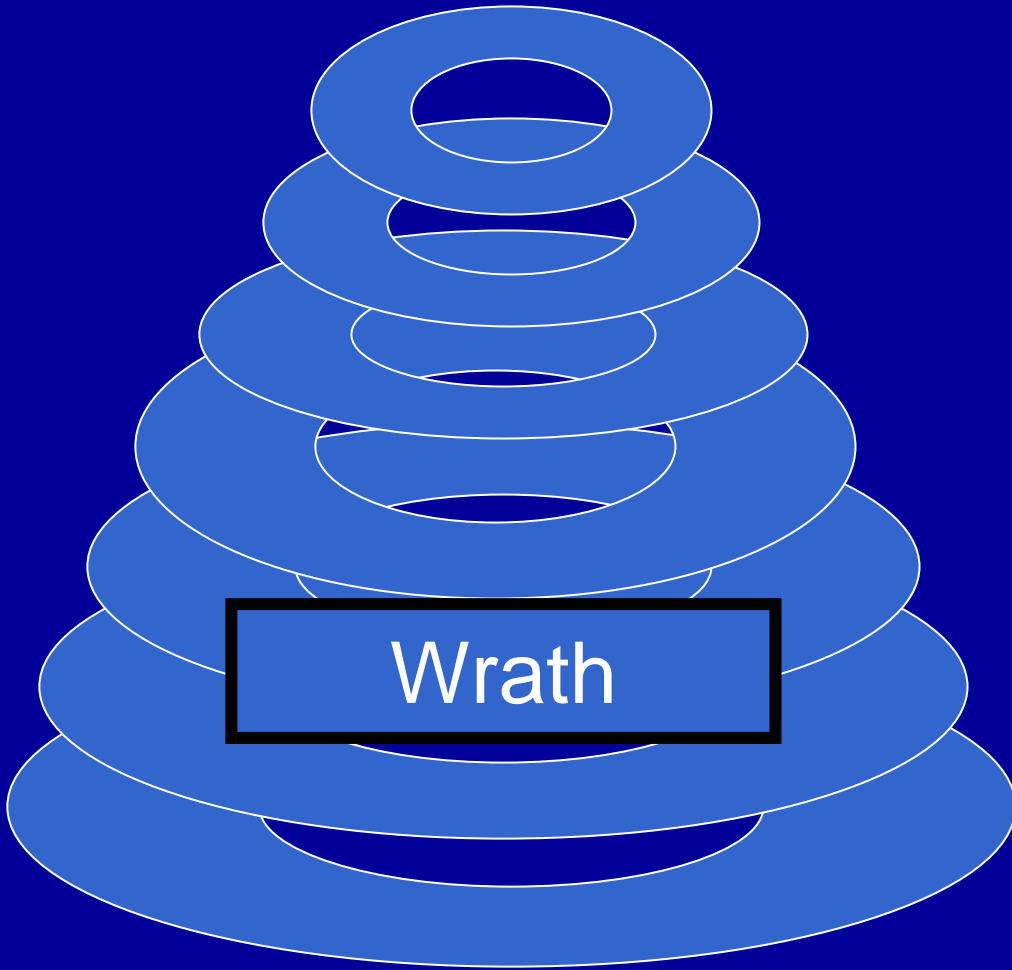


Eyes sewed
shut

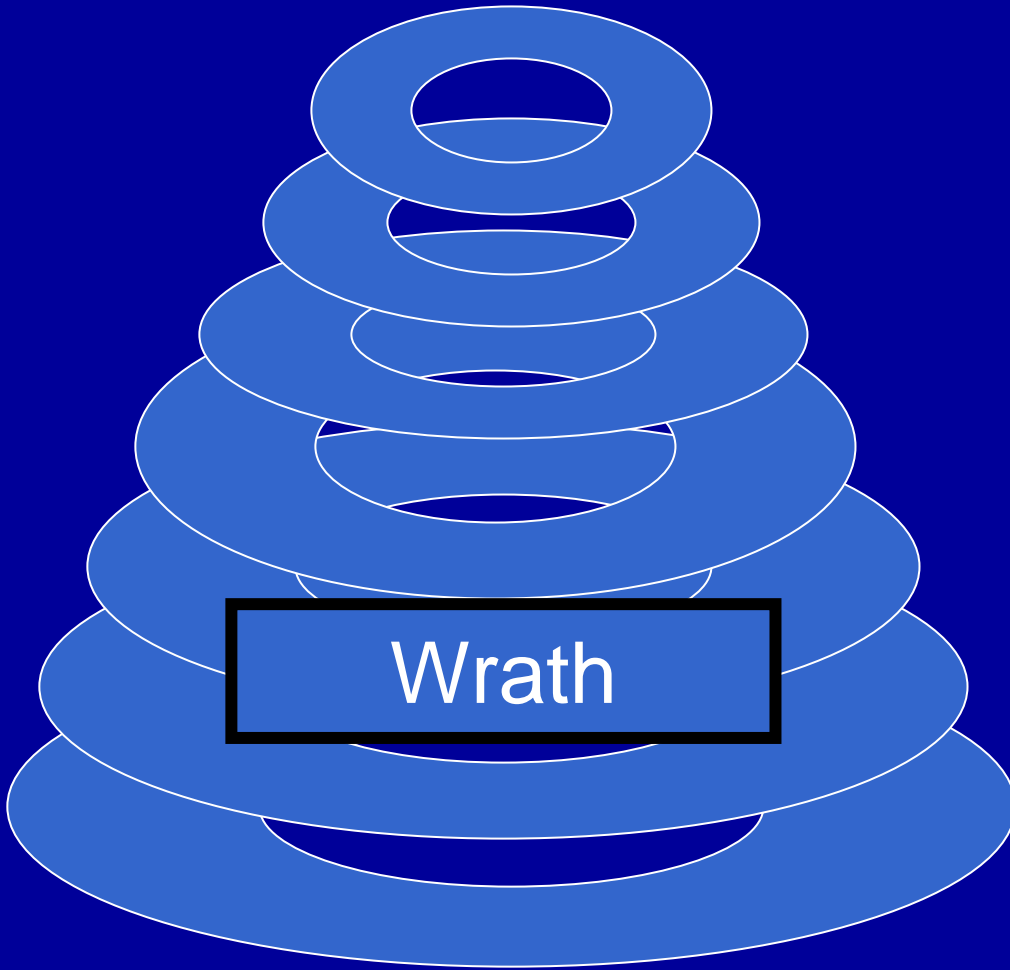
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

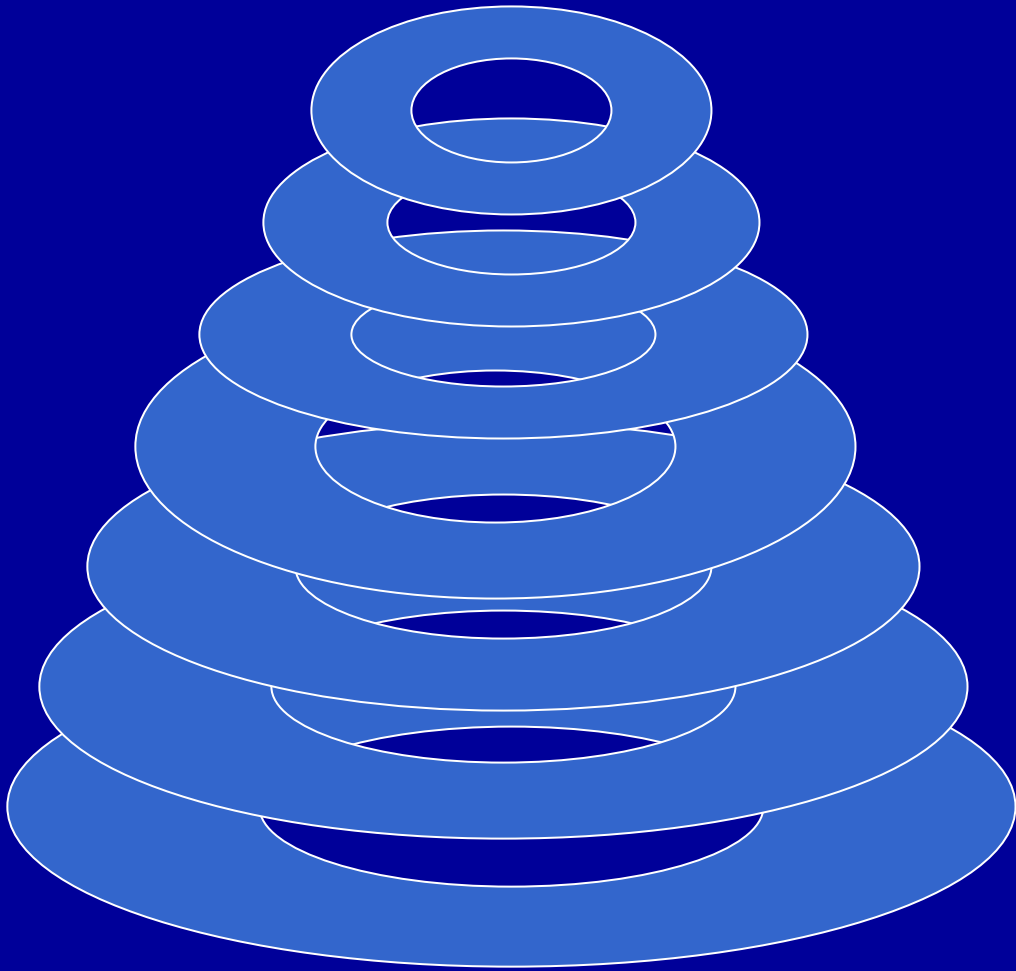


7 Terraces

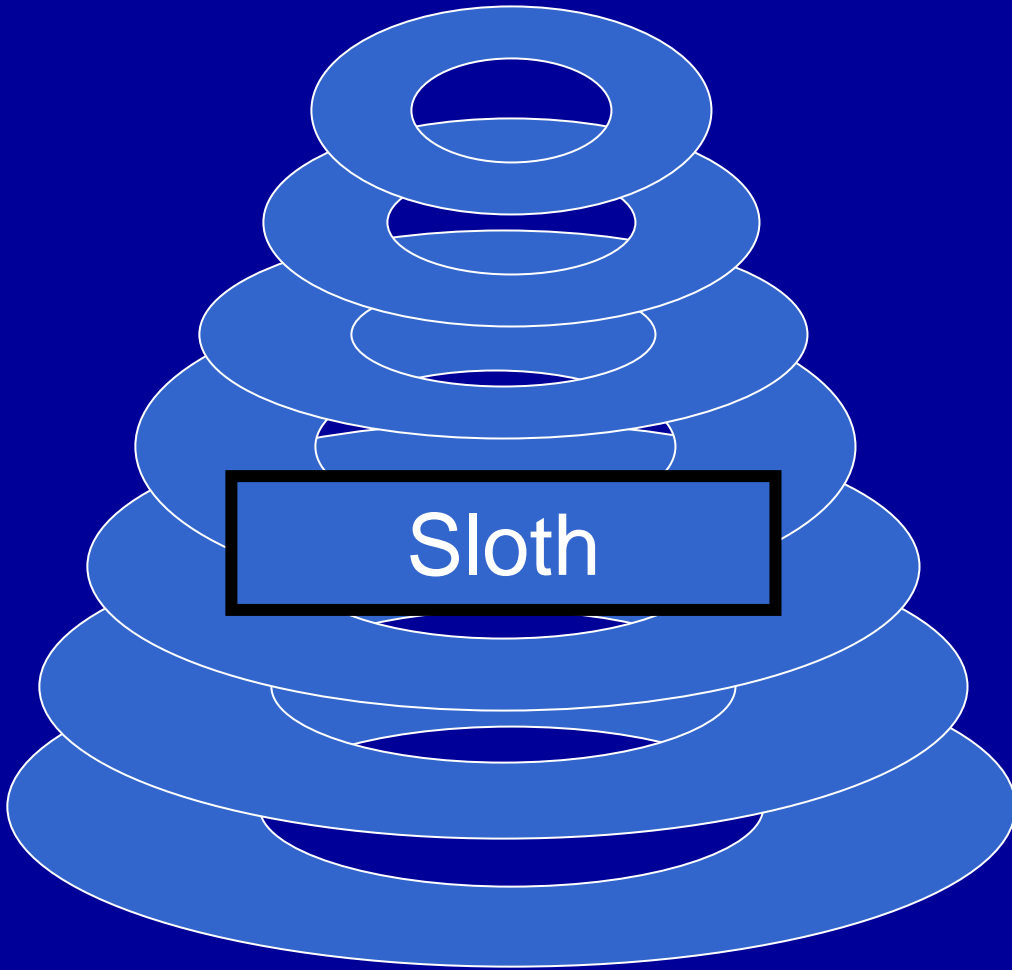


Burning foul
smelling smoke

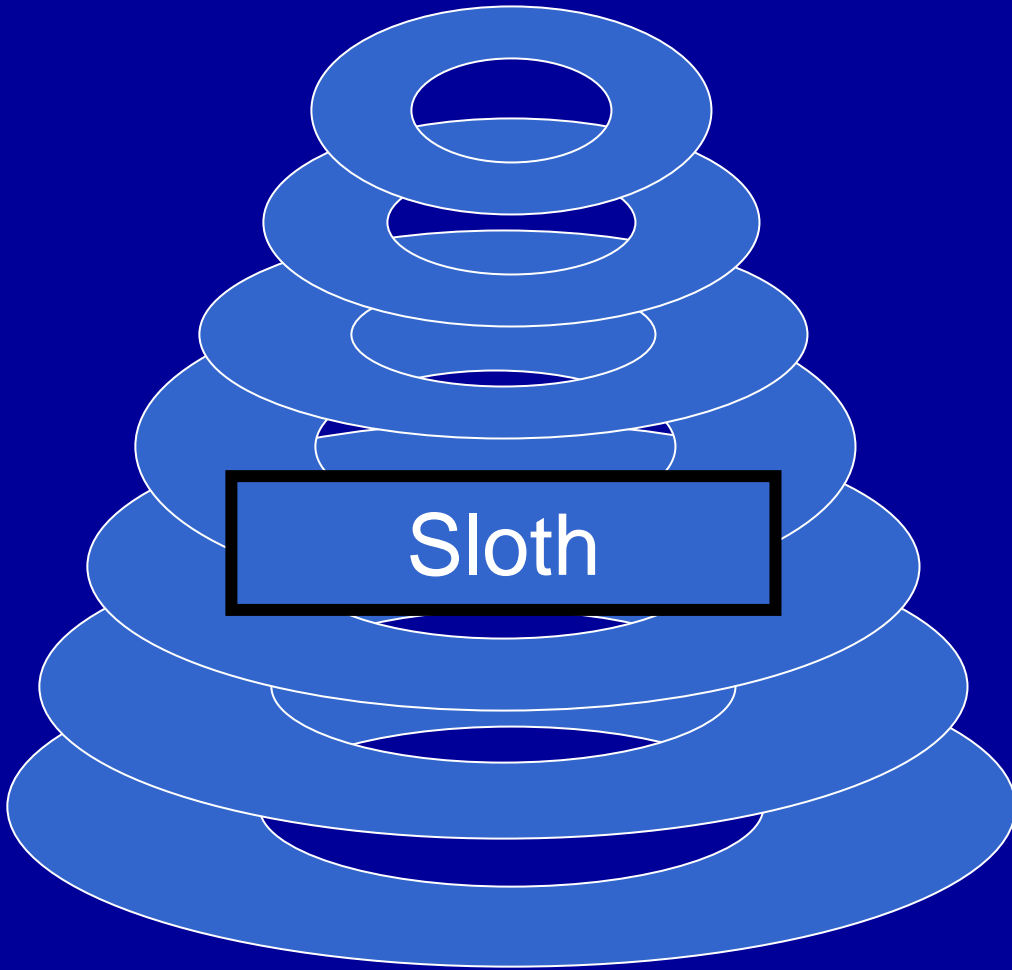
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

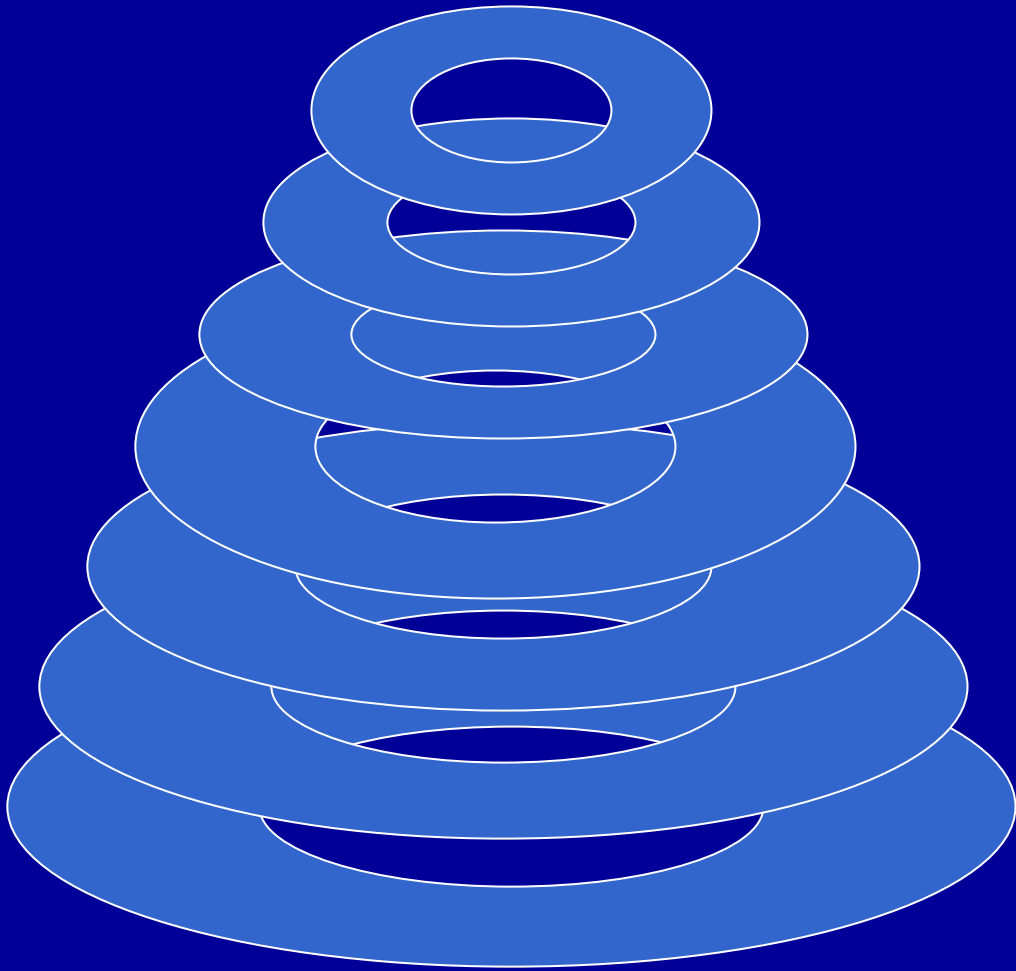


7 Terraces



Running!

7 Terraces



7 Terraces



Greedy/extravagant

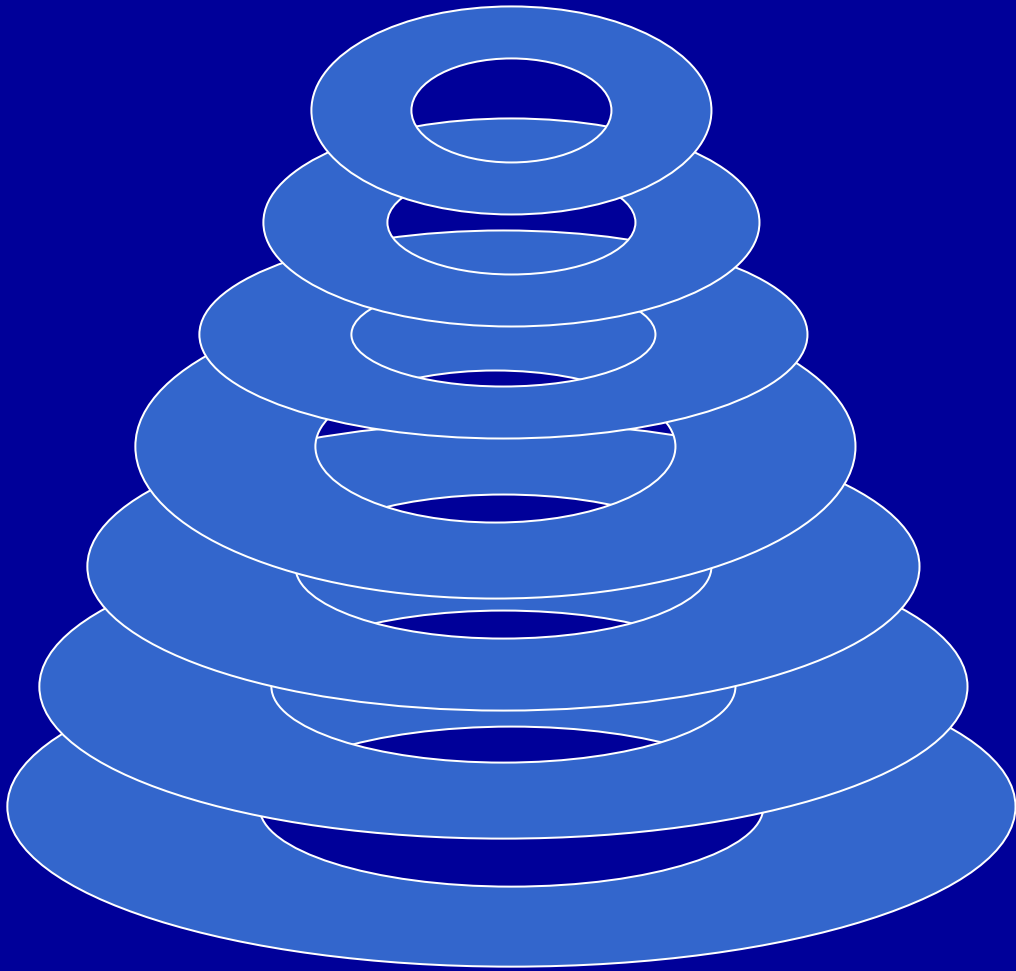
7 Terraces



Greedy/extravagant

Immobile, lying
face down

7 Terraces



7 Terraces



Gluttons

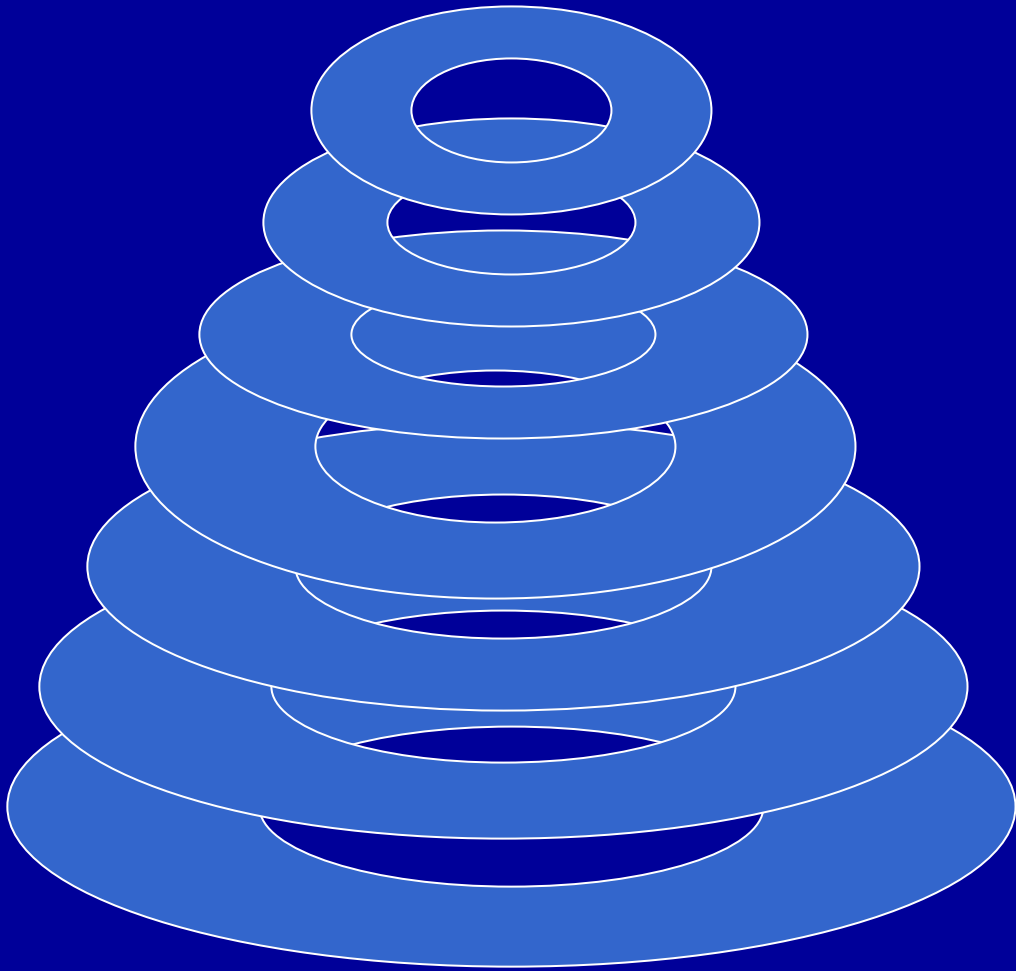
7 Terraces



Gluttons

Hungry and
unable to
eat/drink

7 Terraces



7 Terraces



Lust

7 Terraces

Lust

Wall of flame





The Divine Comedy



Paradiso

The Divine Comedy



9 Spheres of Heaven



A final note

A final note

A photograph of Dante's tomb in Ravenna, Italy. The tomb is a small, white, classical-style structure with a dome and an arched entrance. A lion sculpture is positioned above the entrance. To the left, a flagpole displays the Italian flag and the European Union flag. The background shows green foliage.

**Dante's tomb in
Ravenna**



**Dante's tomb in
Ravenna**



**Dante's empty
tomb in
Florence**



IL CENTENARIO
NASCITA
COMUNE NAZI
COMUNI ITALI
CLXV - MCML



IL CENTENARIO
NASCITA
COMUNE NAZI
COMUNI ITALI
CLXV - MCML

Points for Home

Points for Home

- Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man in Lk 16:19-31

Points for Home

- Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man in Lk 16:19-31
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:9)

Points for Home

- Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man in Lk 16:19-31
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:9)
- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him (Jn 3:36)