

# Church History Literacy

## Dante's *Inferno/Purgatorio/Paradiso*

### Lesson 44

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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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”

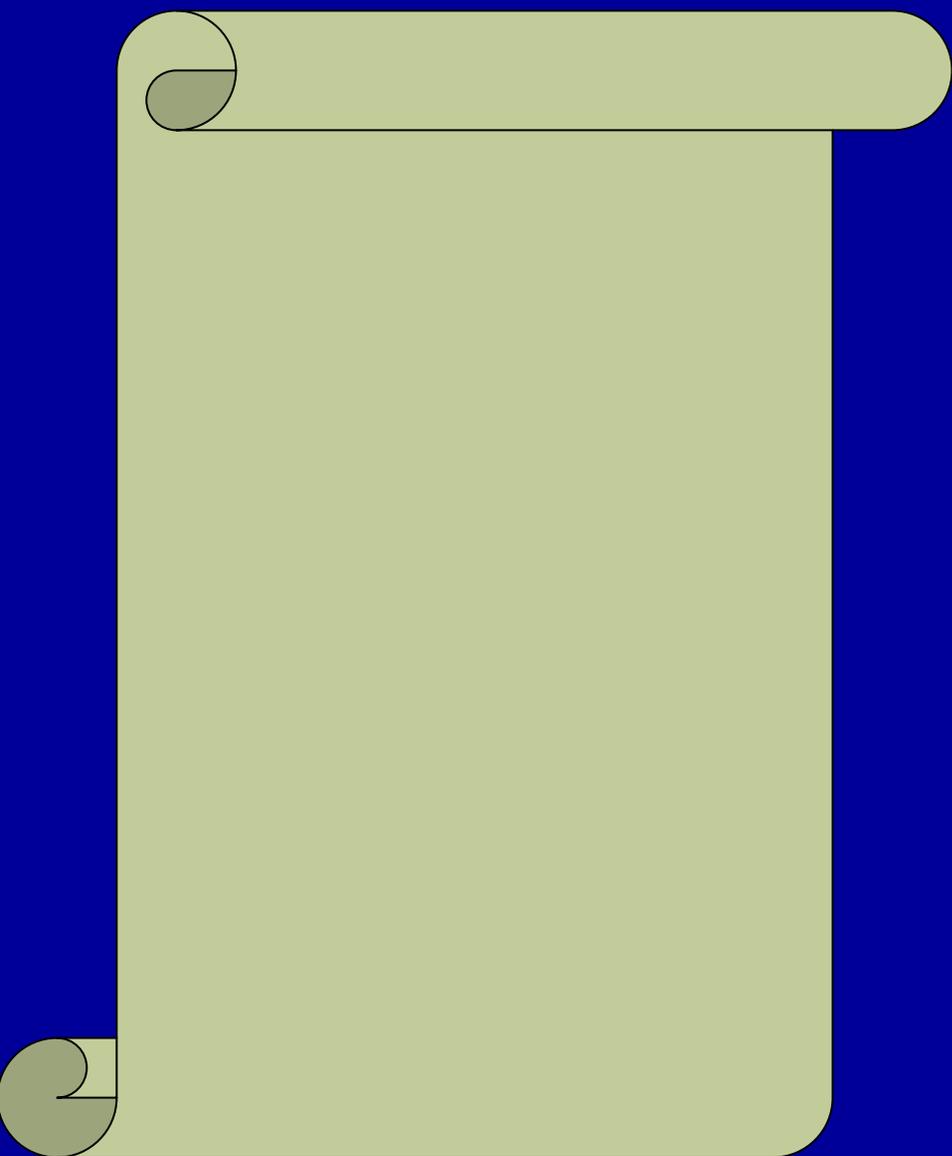
Latin: *Comoedia*

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 peccatori  
che non hanno  
avuto né speranza né amore in Dio.*



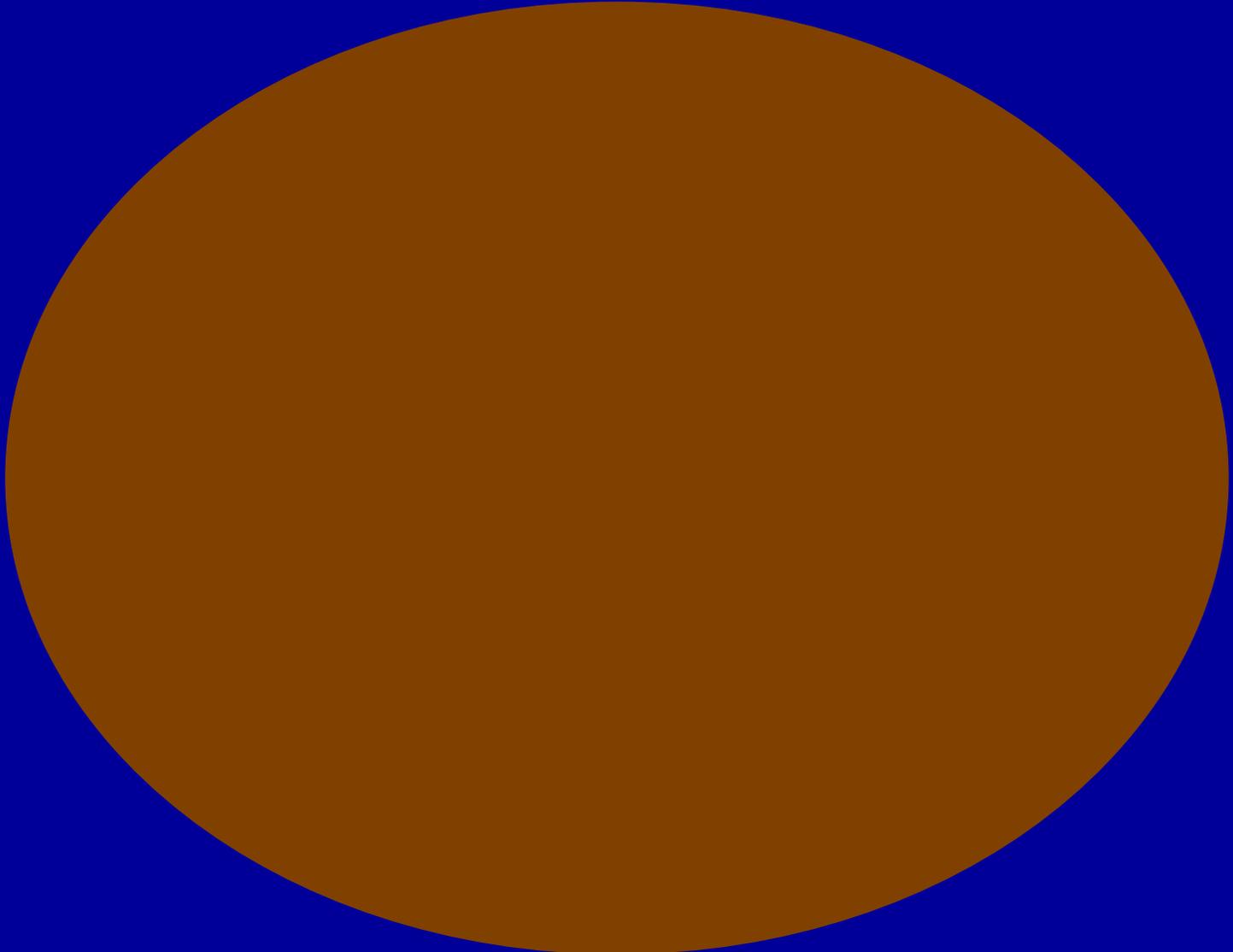
*Leave every hope you who enter in*



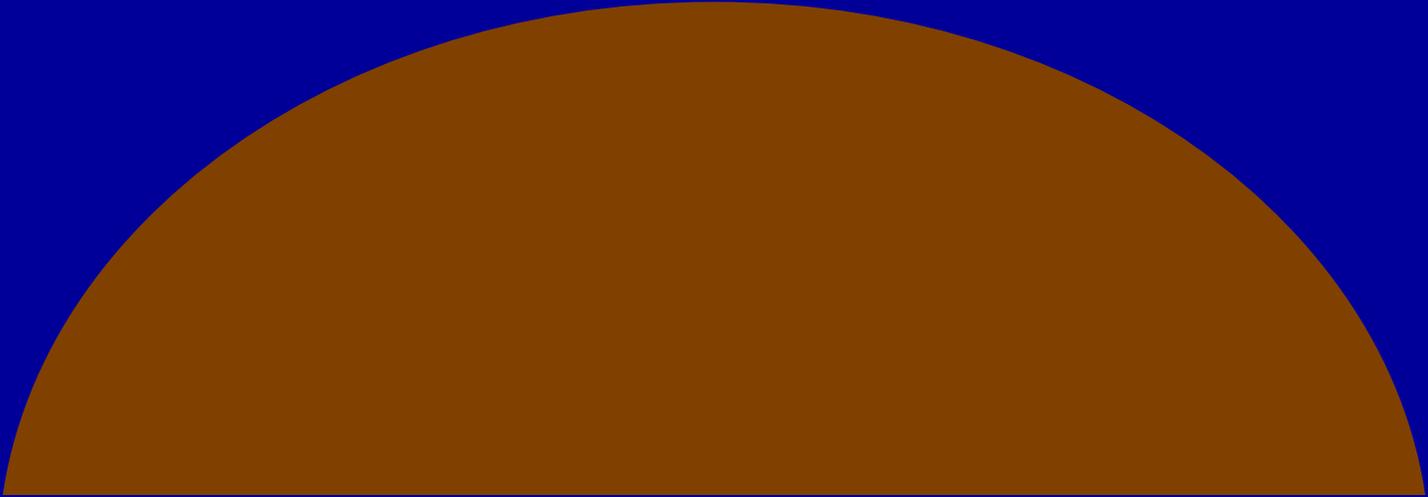
“Leave every hope you who enter in”

HELL Canto 3

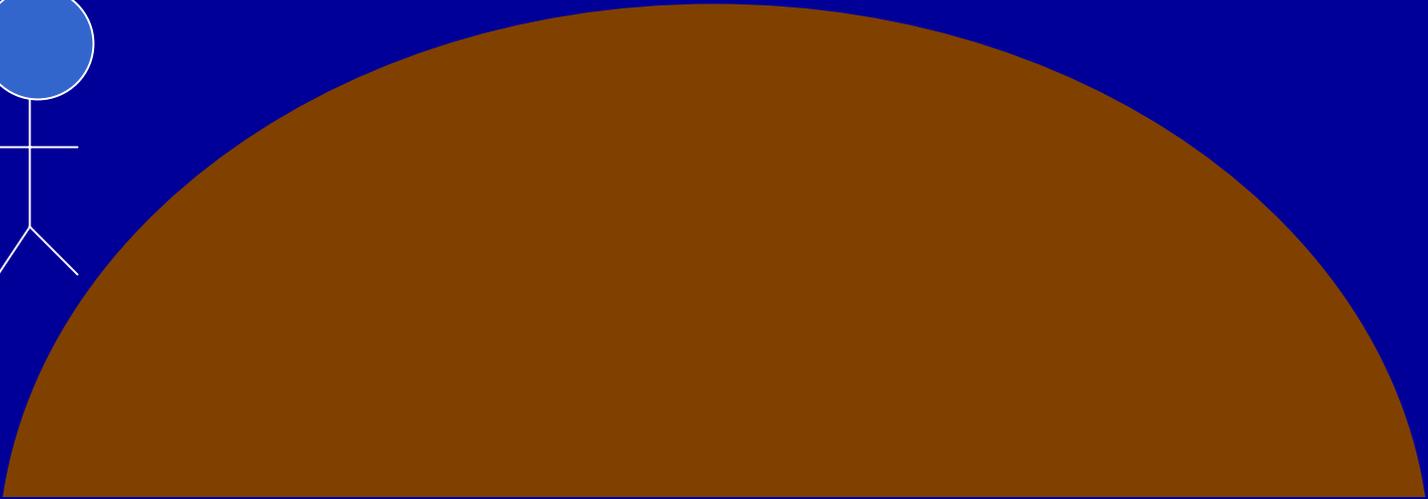
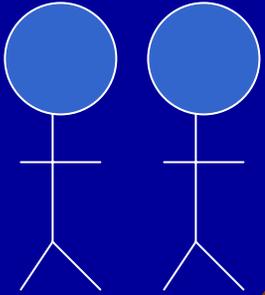
# Dante's World



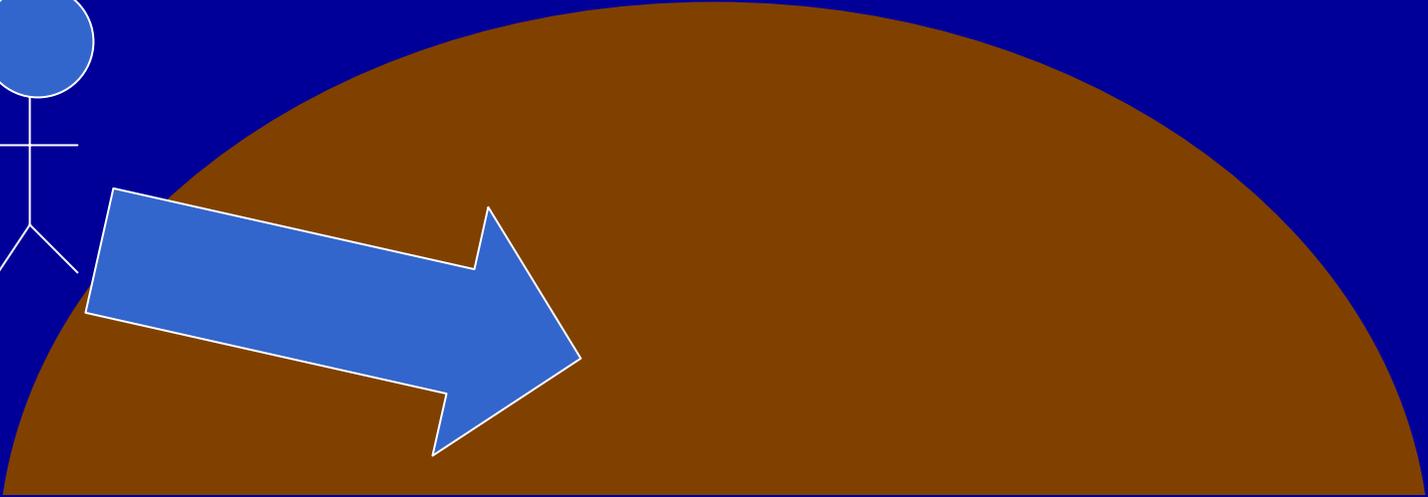
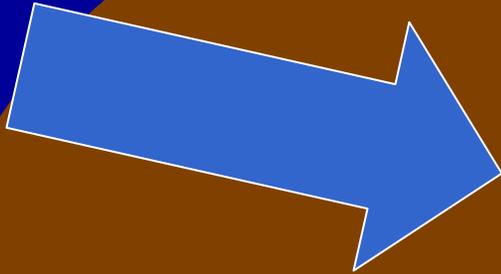
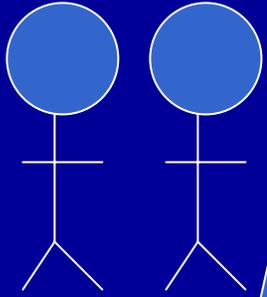
# Dante's World



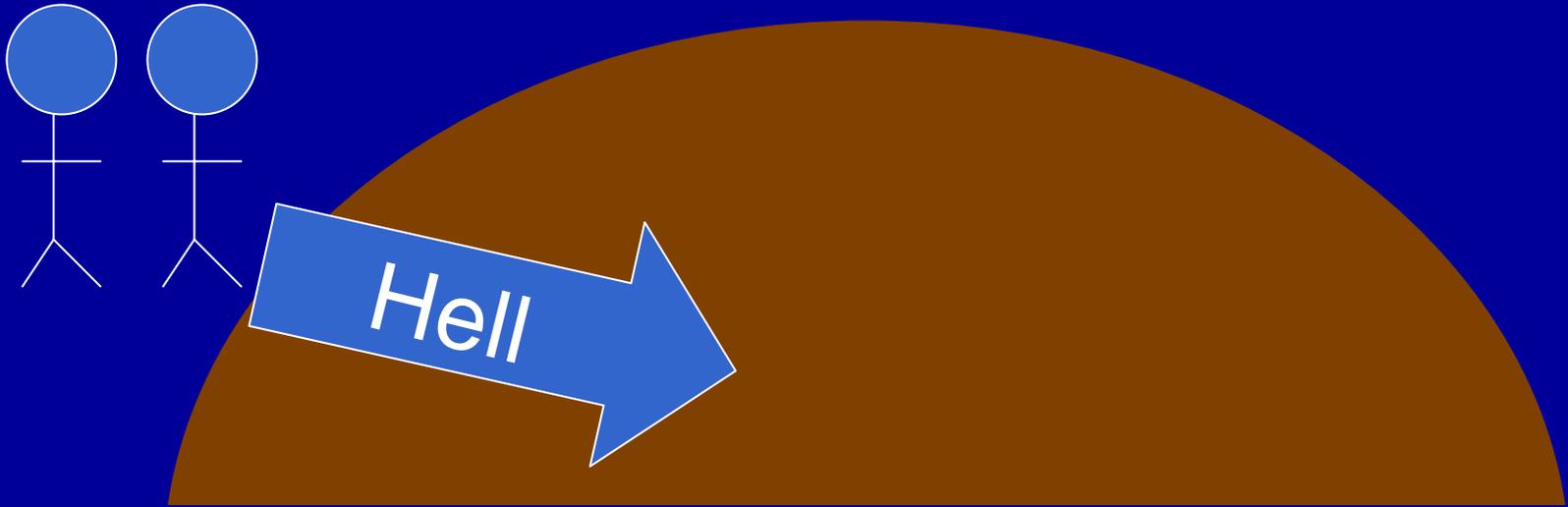
# Dante's World



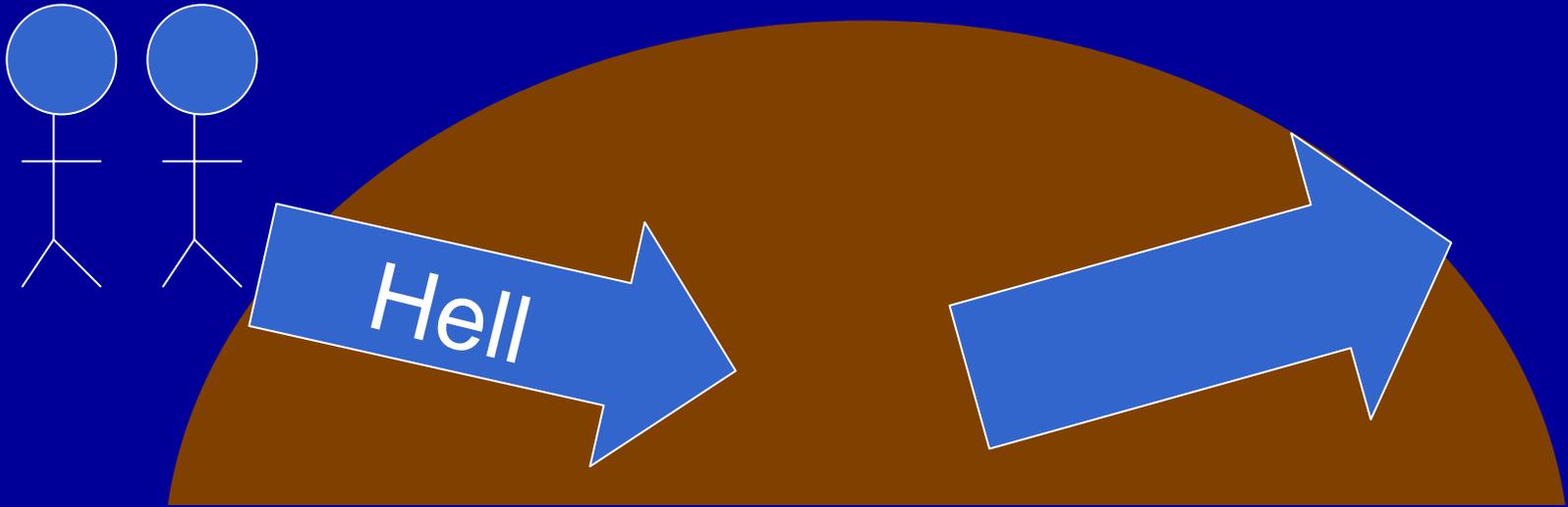
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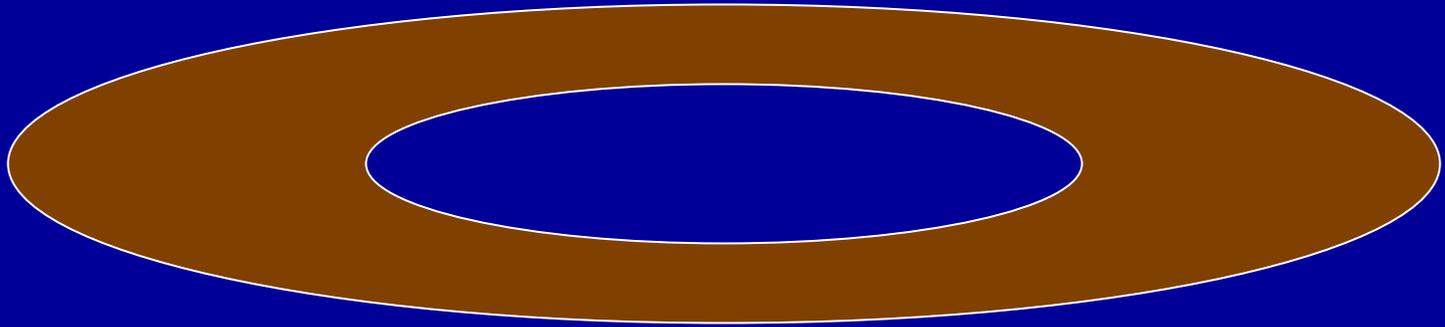


# Dante's World

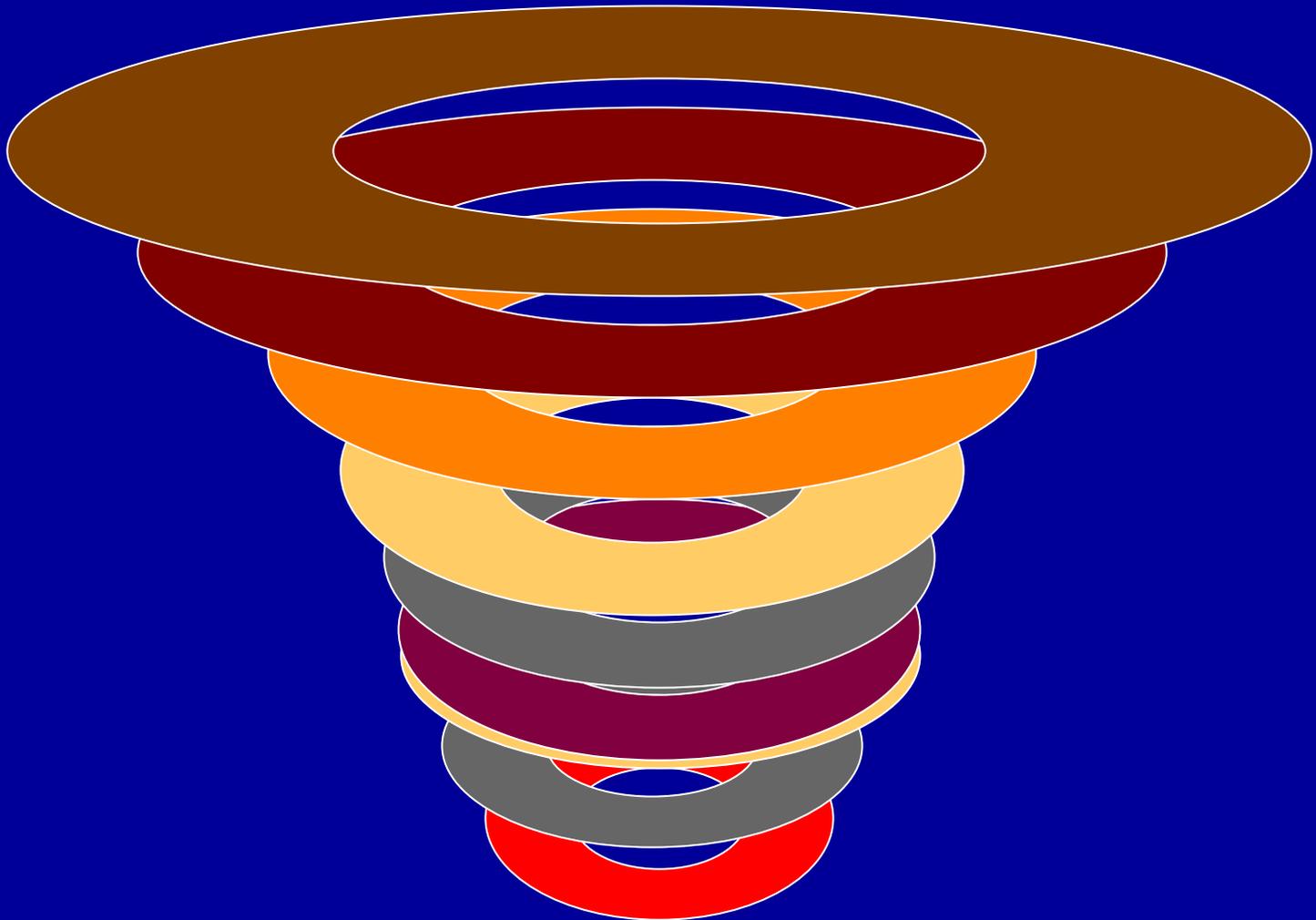


Dante's Hell is in circles

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”

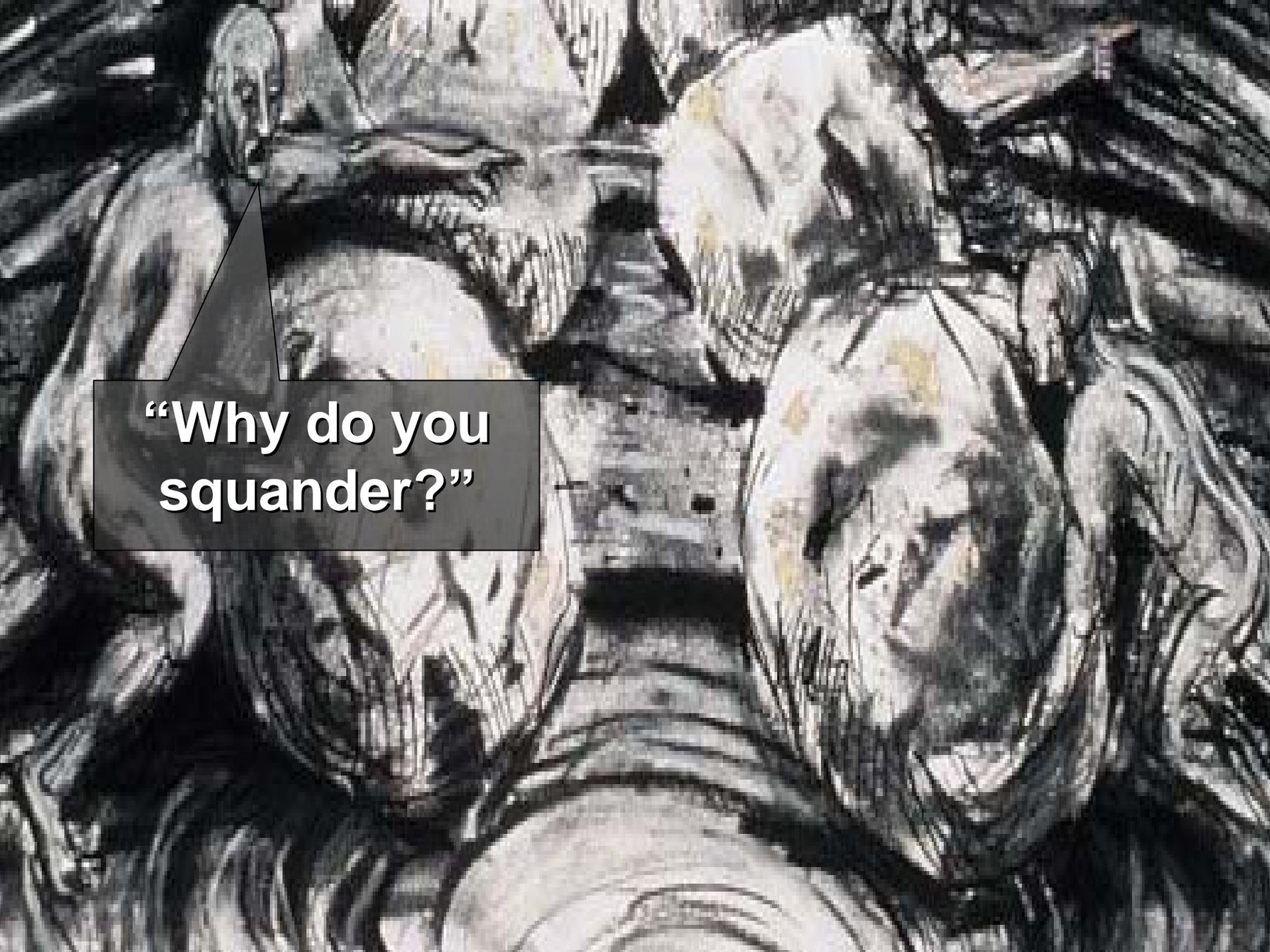


“filled with cold, unending, heavy and accursed rain ... Gross hailstones, water gray with filth”

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







**“Why do you squander?”**



**“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”

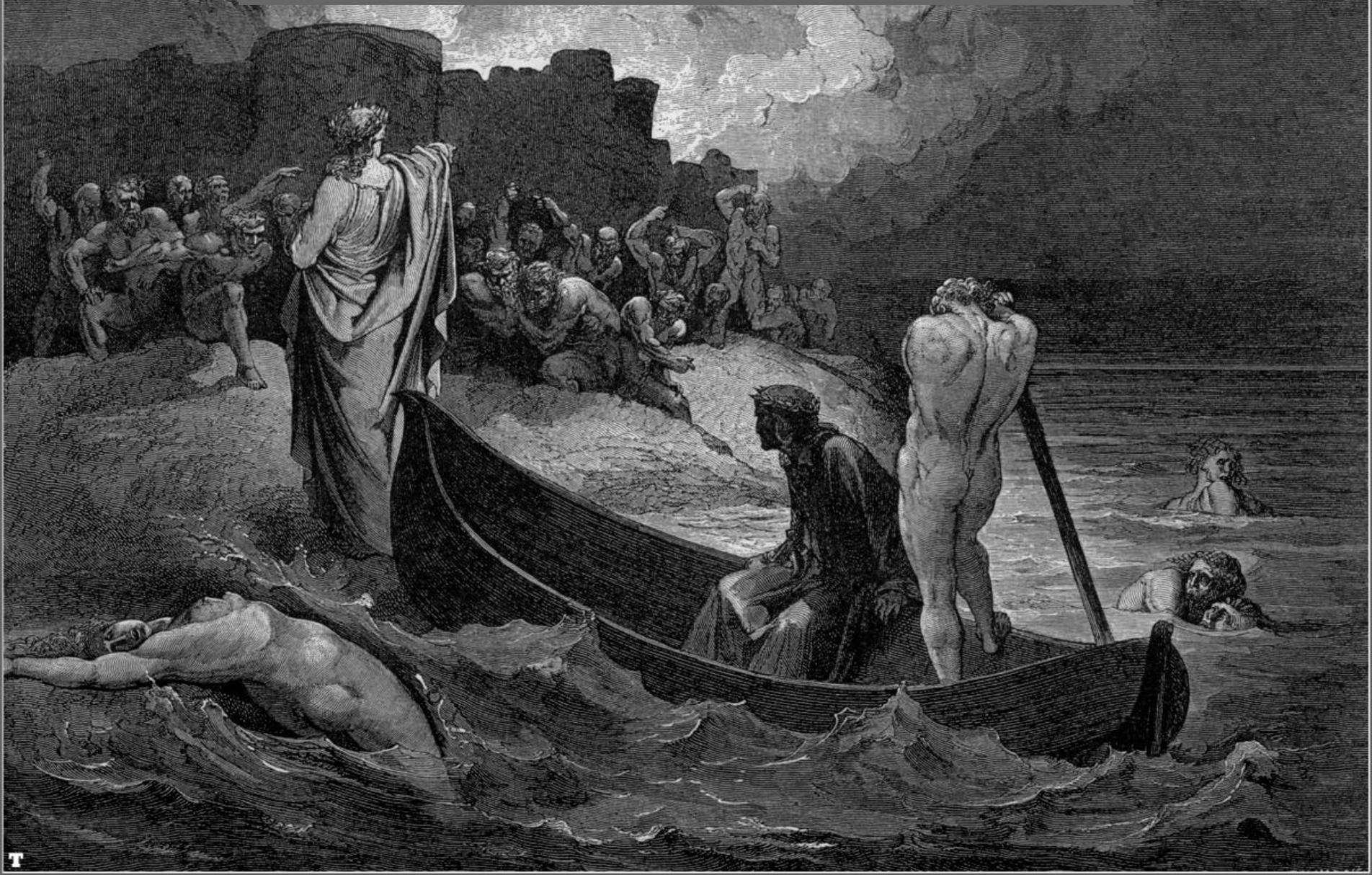


A detail from Dante Alighieri's 'Divine Comedy', specifically the Seventh Circle of Hell (Inferno). The scene depicts the souls of those who died from anger, who are punished by being eternally tormented and tearing each other apart. In the foreground, two muscular, shirtless men are shown in a violent struggle, tearing at each other's flesh. One man has a thick black beard and is being held from behind by another man. In the background, other souls are visible, some being attacked by winged demons (the Minotaur and Centaurs). The overall atmosphere is dark and chaotic, with a reddish-brown, fiery background.

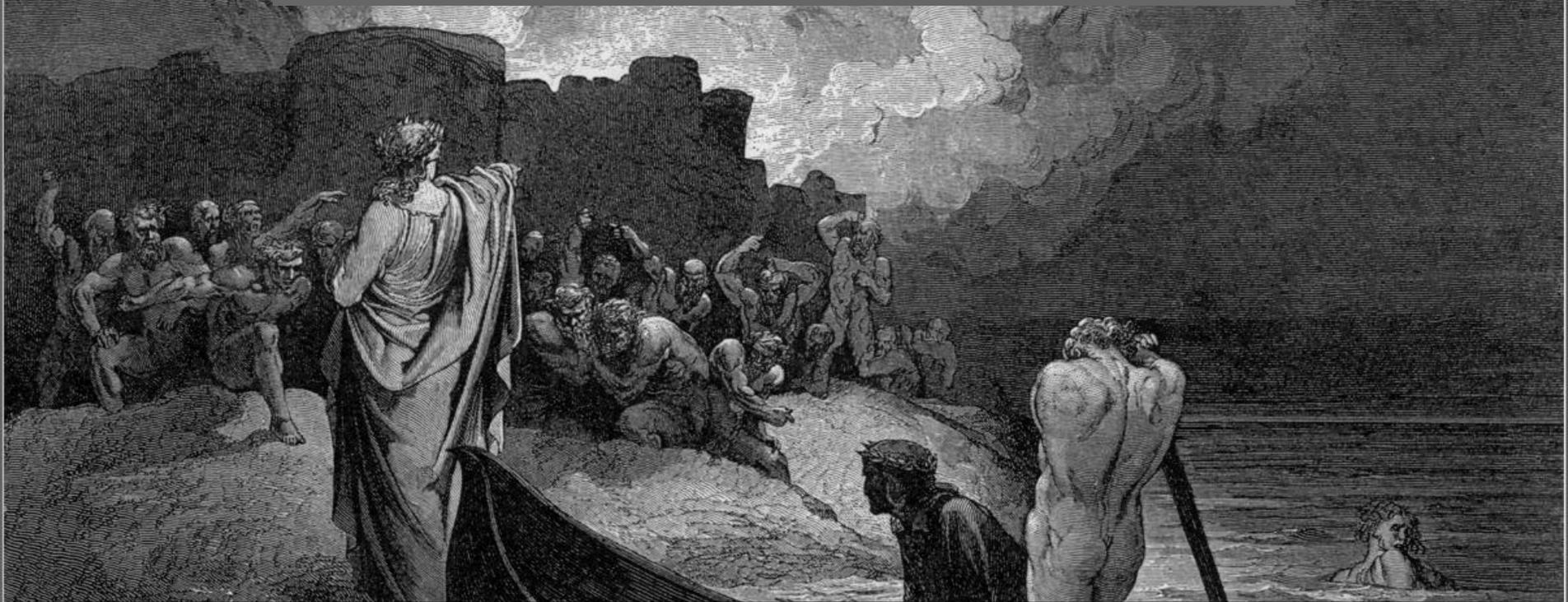
Eternity hitting  
“not with hands  
alone, but with  
their heads and  
 chests and with  
their feet” tearing  
“each other  
piecemeal with  
their teeth”

“The souls of those whom anger has  
defeated”

# Actively anti-God



# Actively anti-God



6th Circle - Arch Heretics in flaming tombs



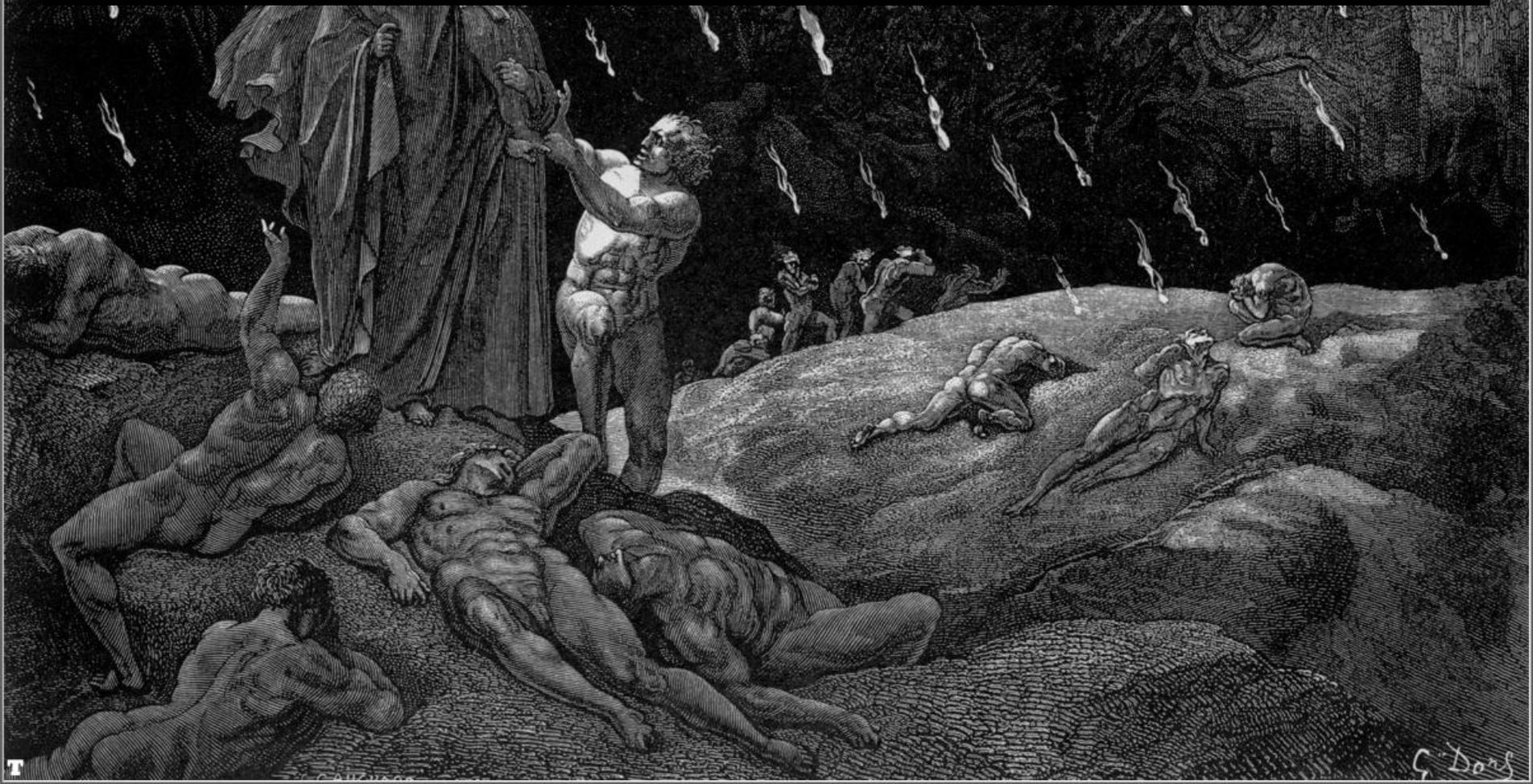
# Actively anti-God



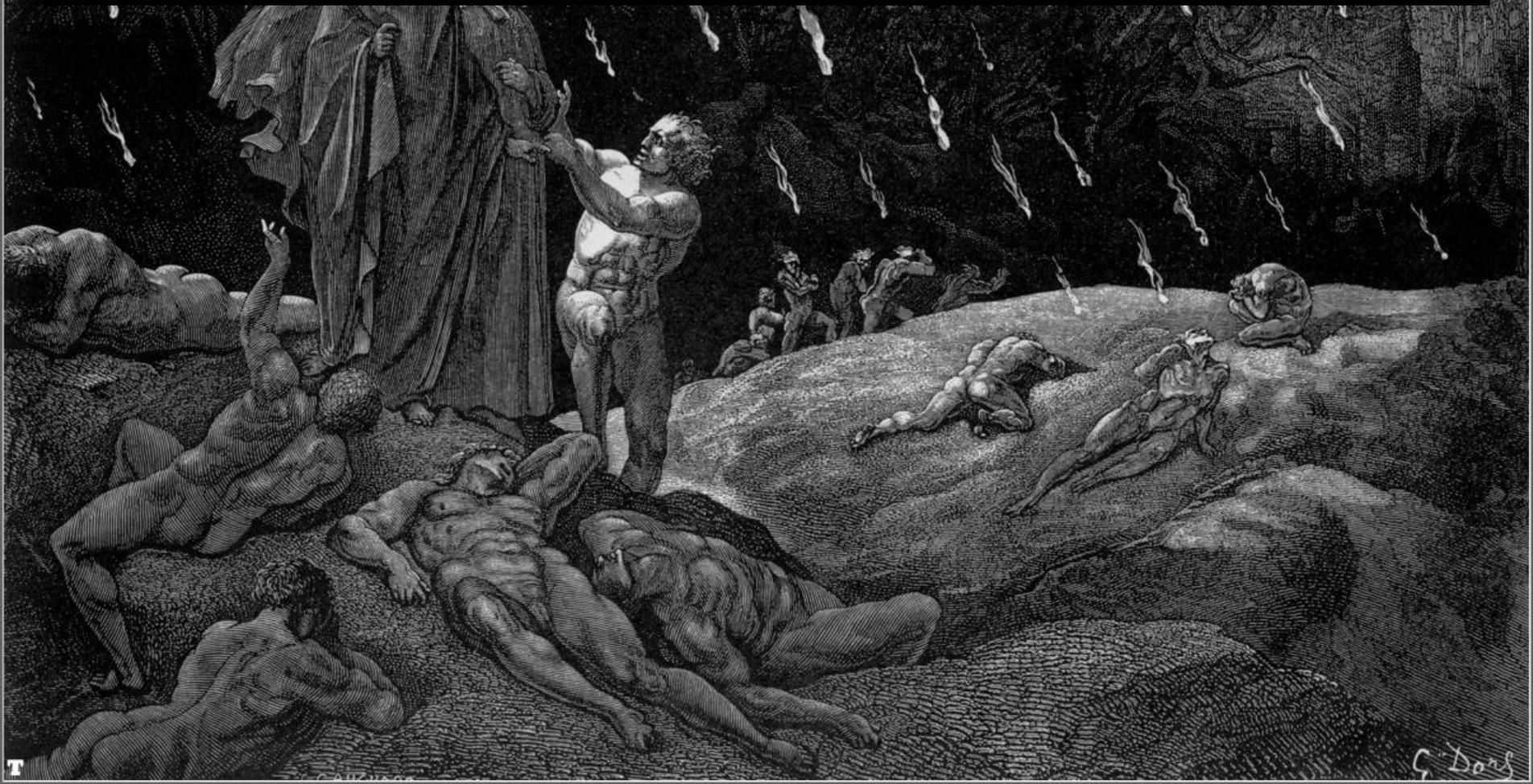
6th Circle - Arch Heretics in flaming tombs

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***

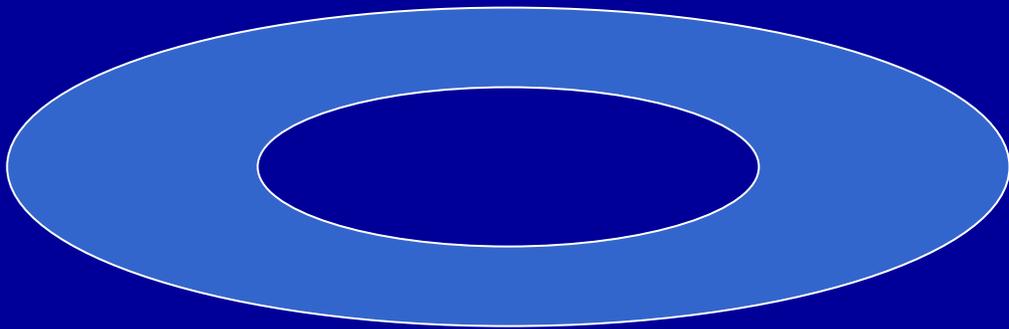


***Purgatorio***

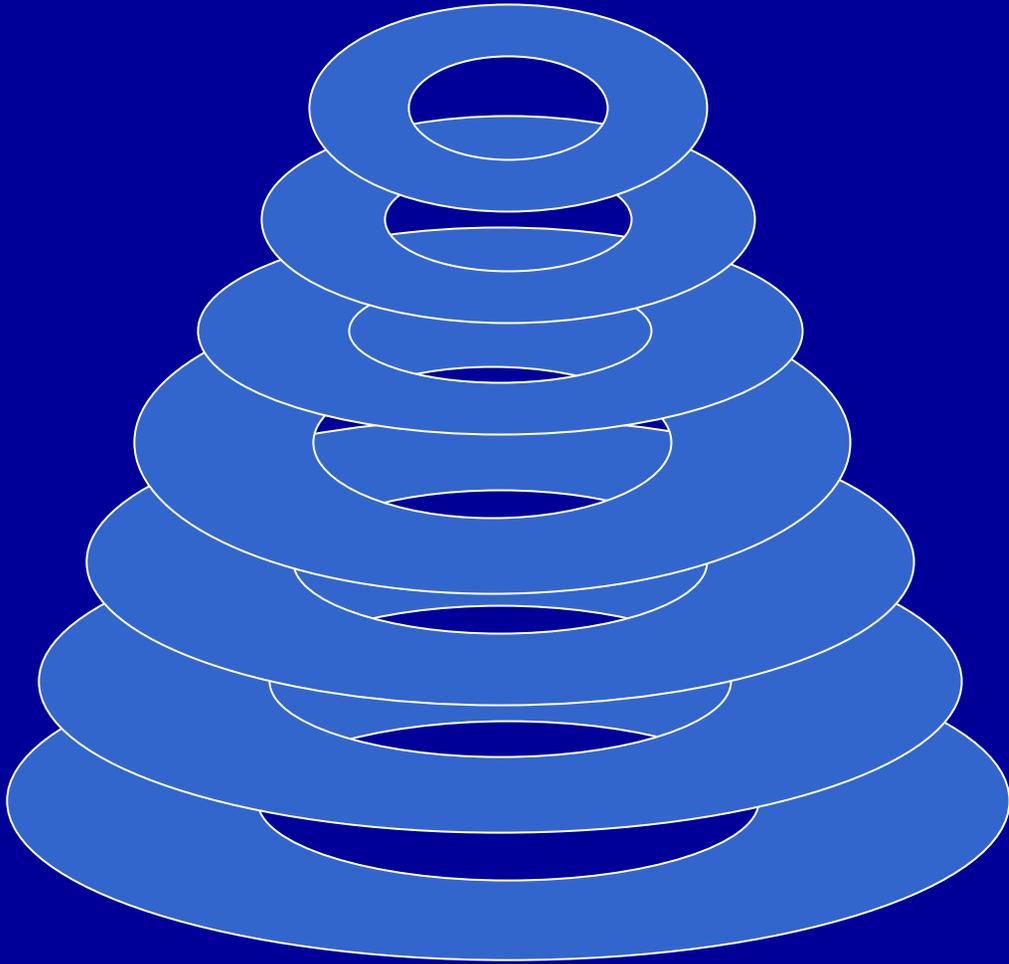
***The Divine Comedy***

# 7 Terraces

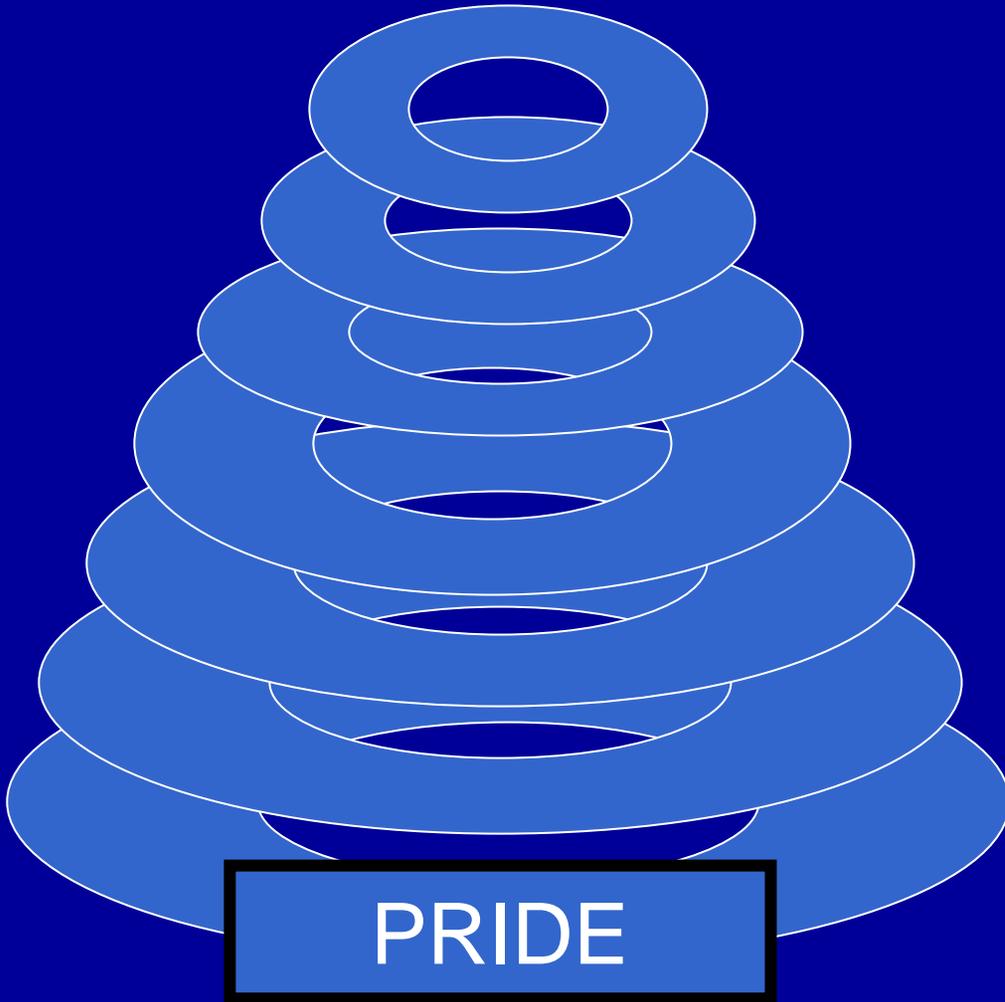
# 7 Terraces



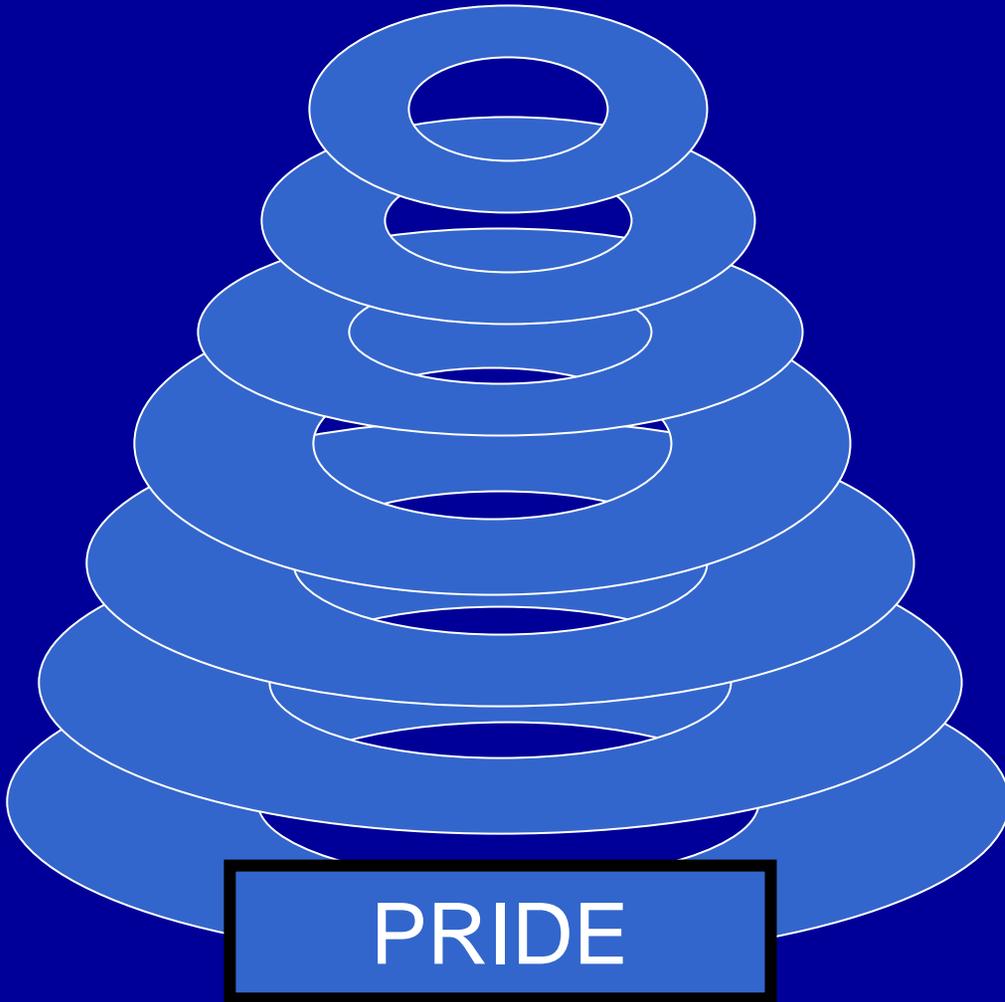
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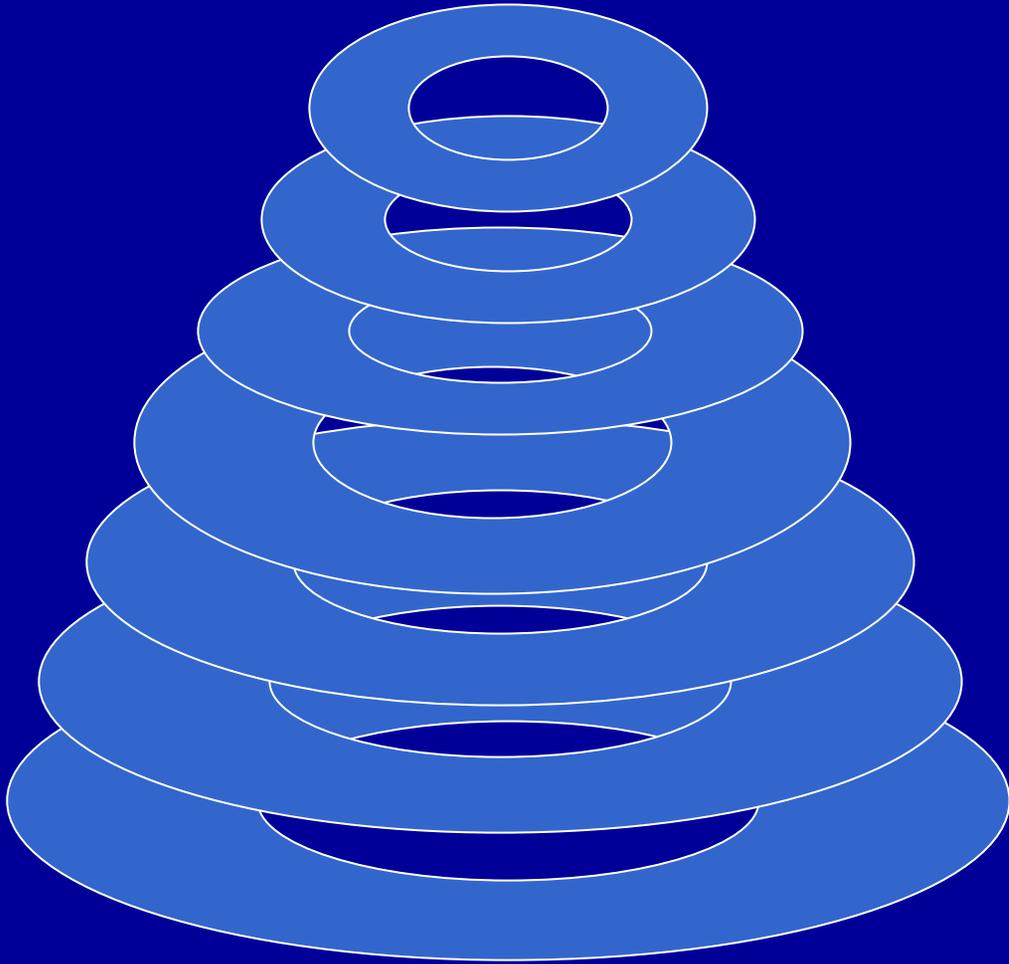


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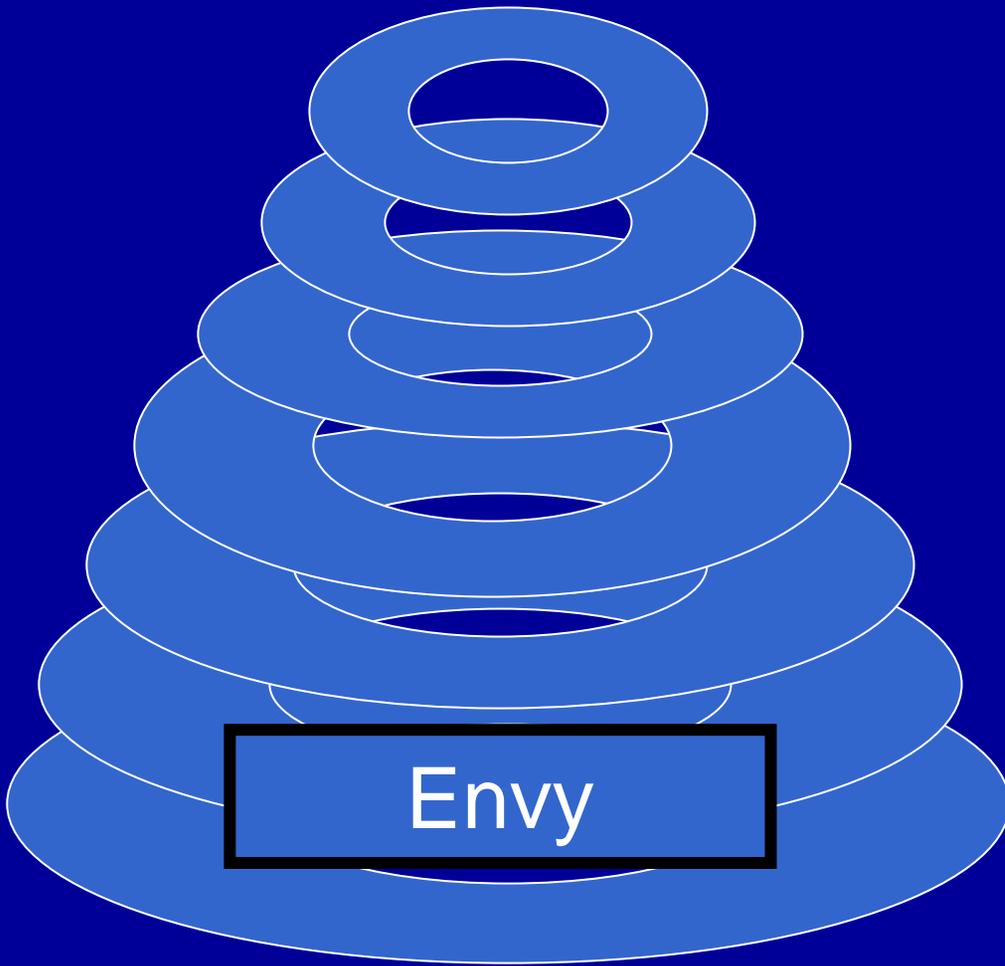


Stones on back

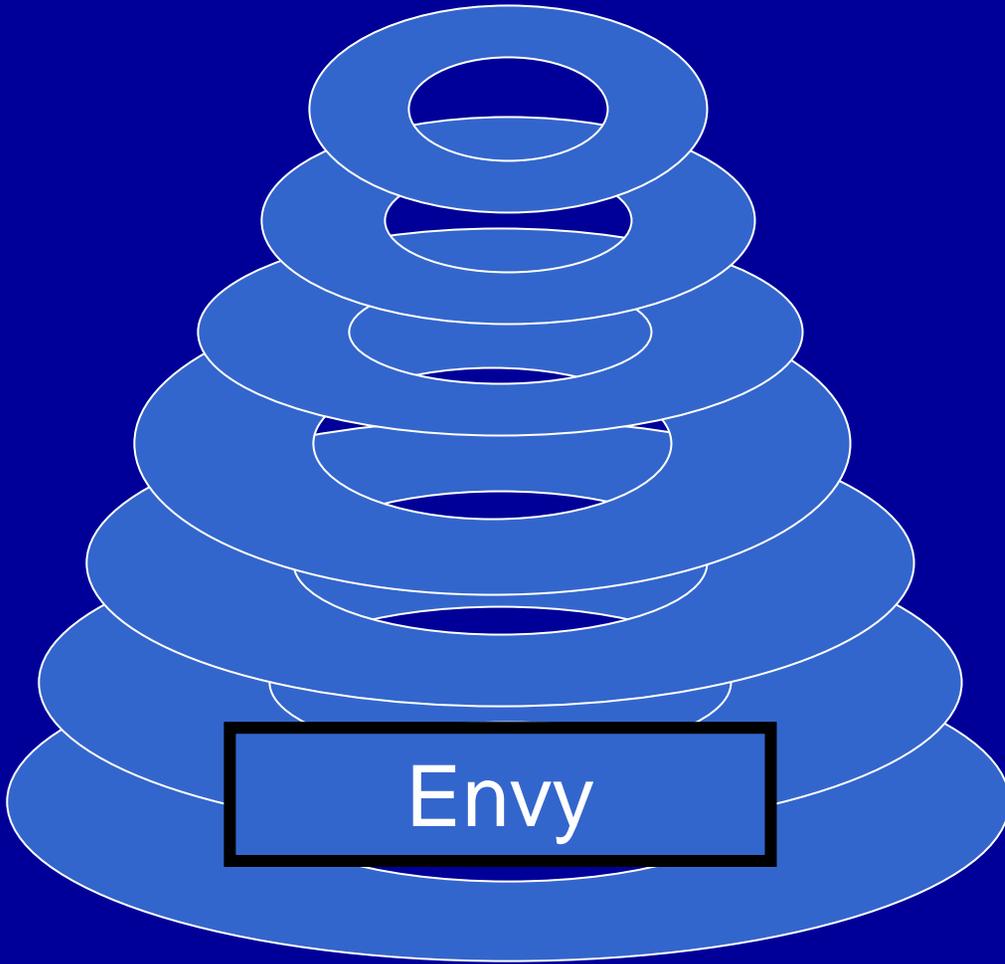
# 7 Terraces



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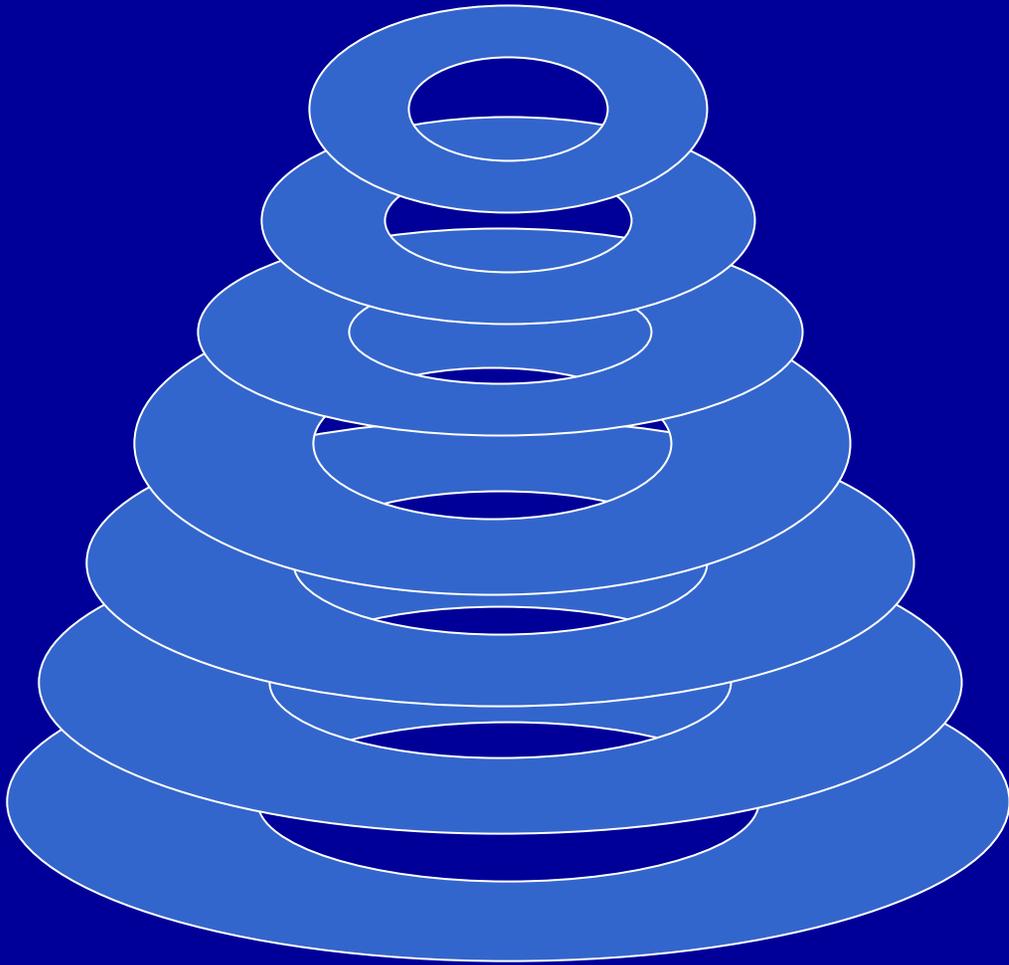


# 7 Terraces

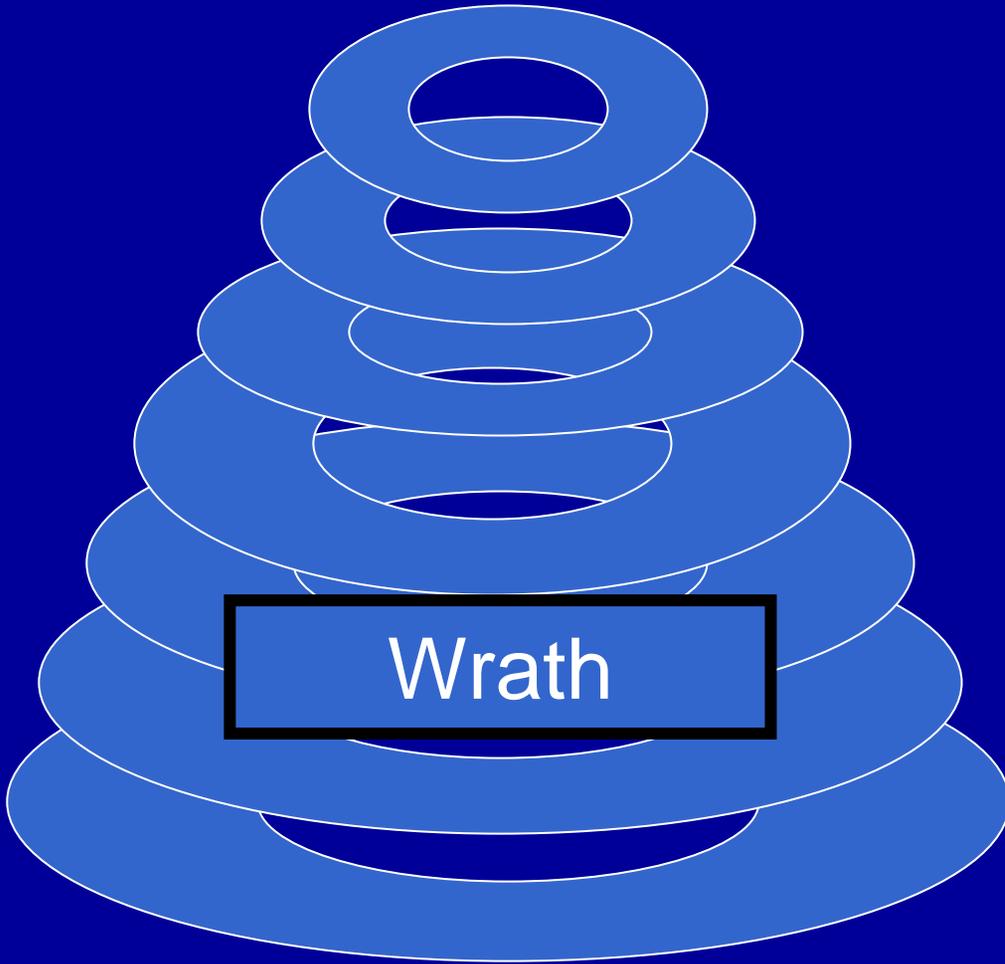


Eyes sewed  
shut

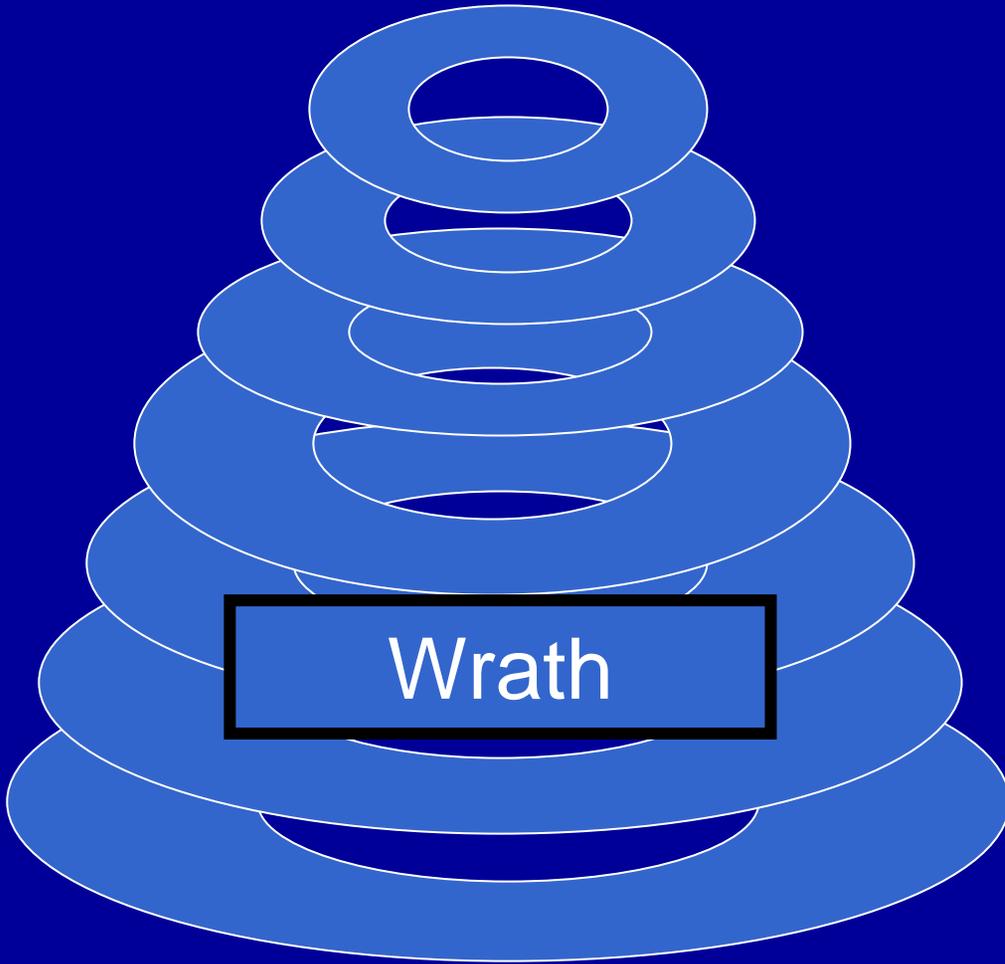
# 7 Terraces



# 7 Terraces

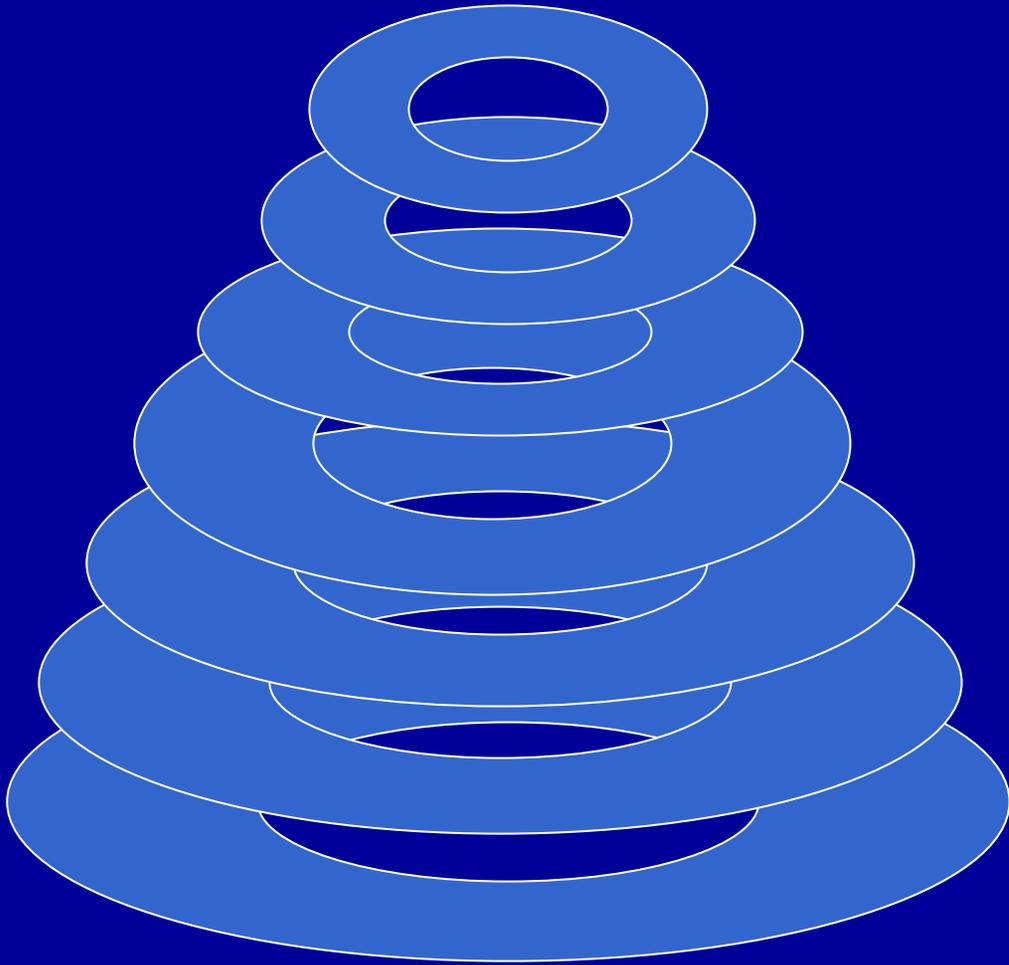


# 7 Terraces

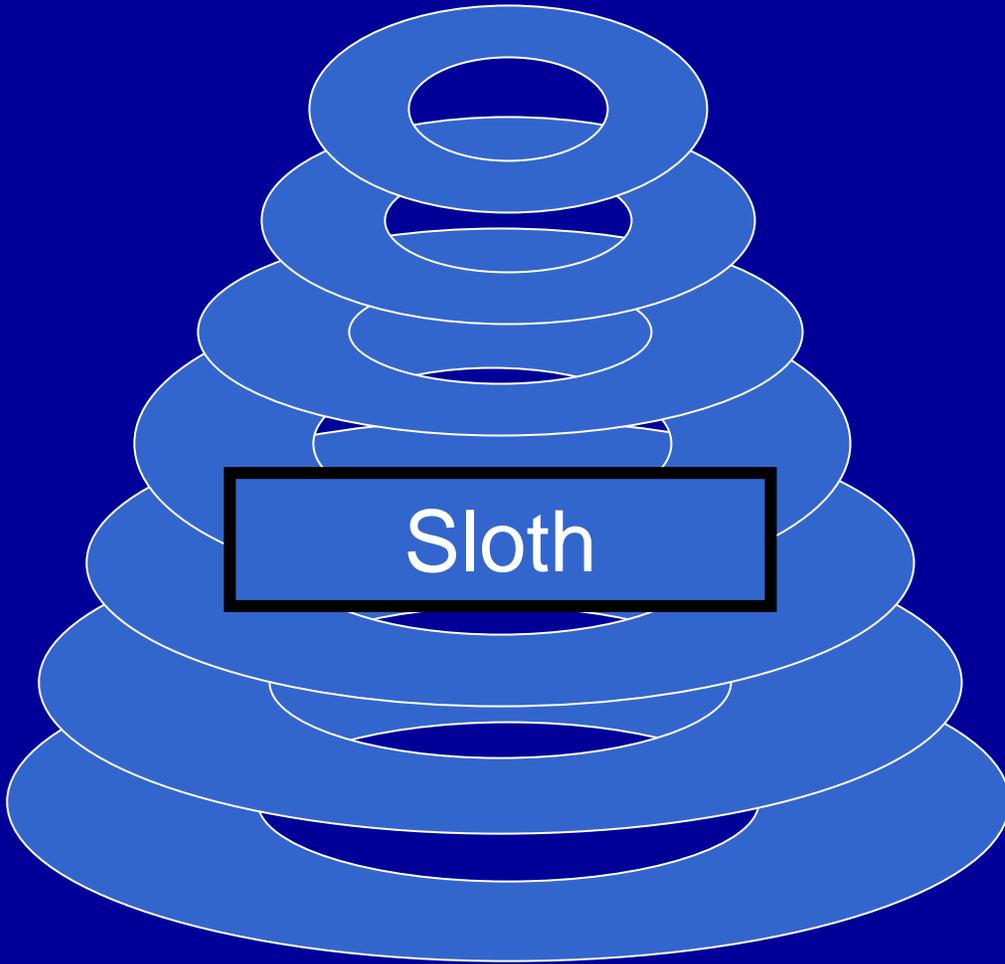


Burning foul  
smelling smoke

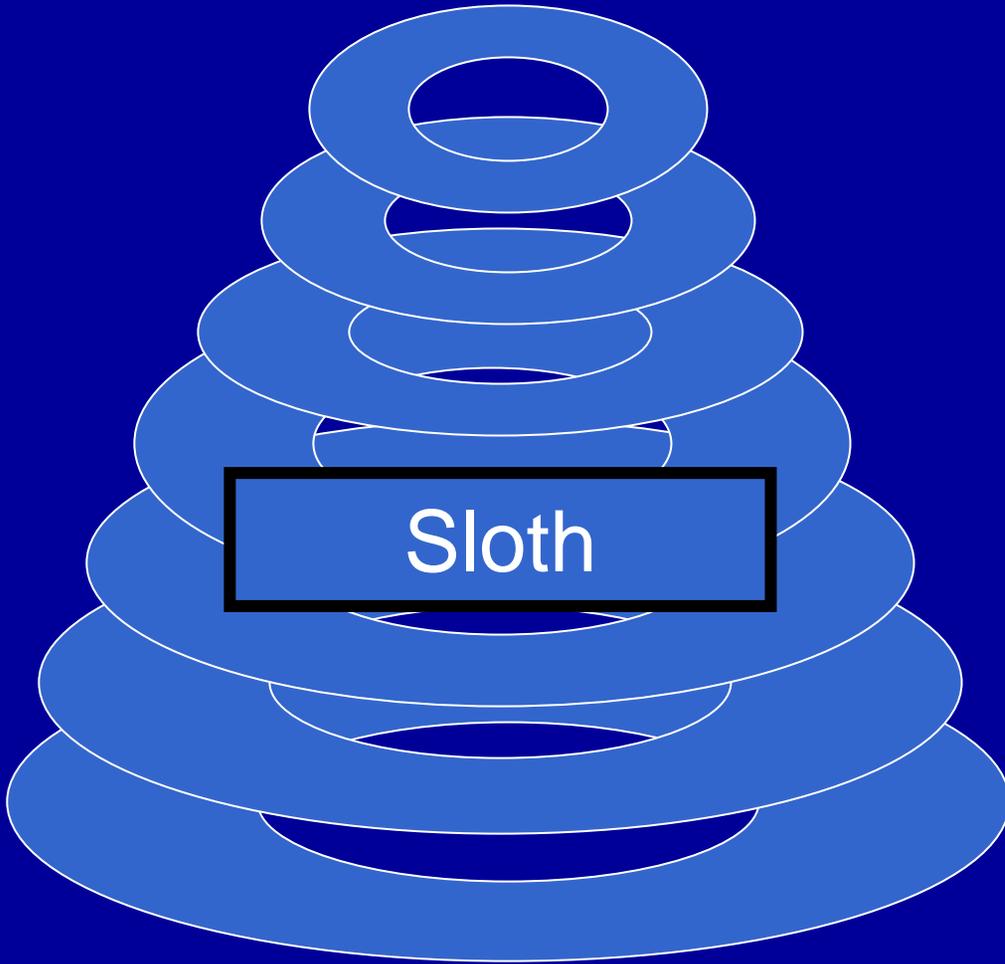
# 7 Terraces



# 7 Terraces

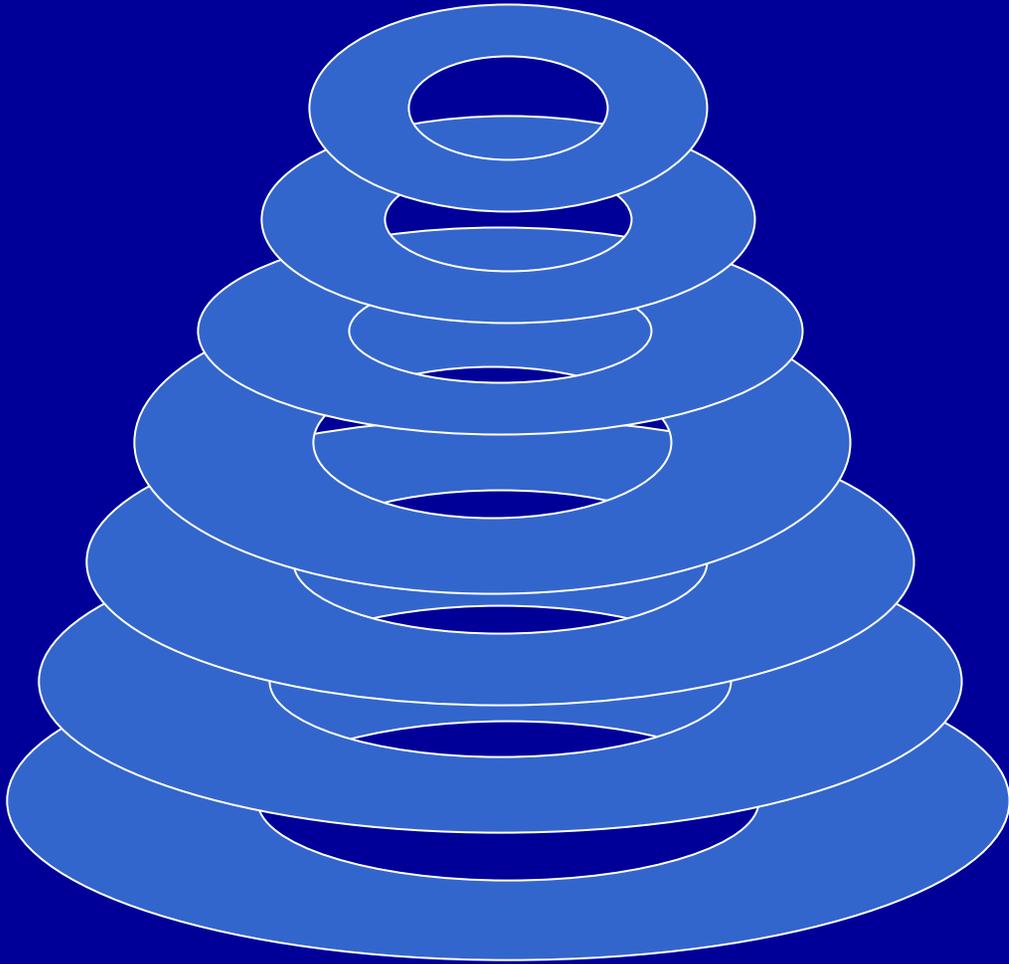


# 7 Terraces



Running!

# 7 Terraces



# 7 Terraces



Greedy/extravagant

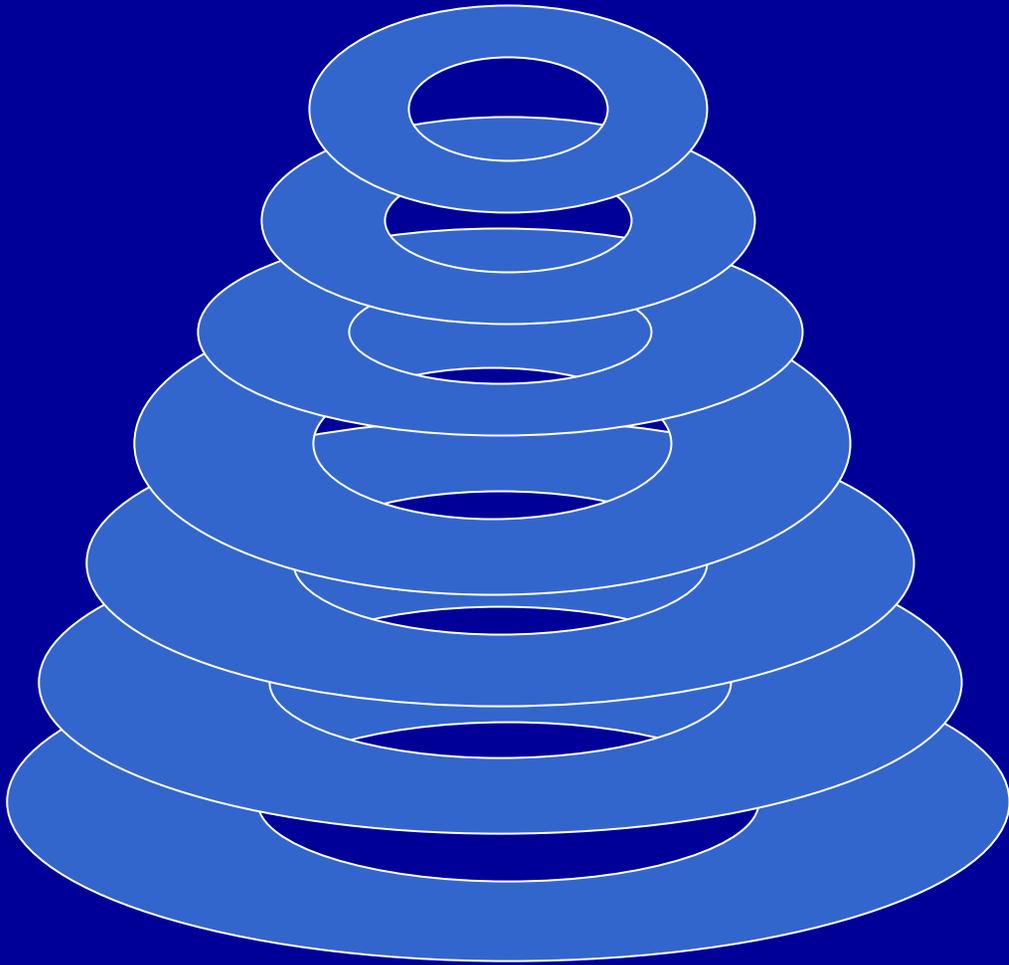
# 7 Terraces



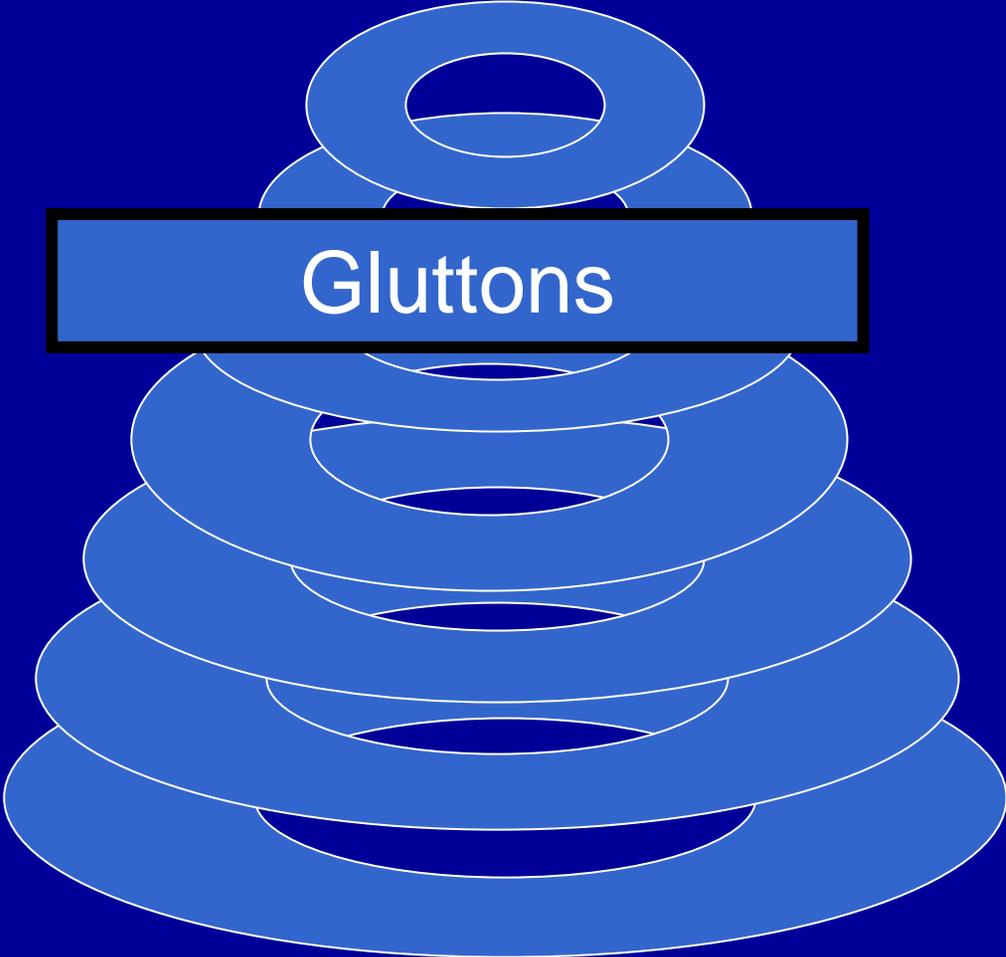
Greedy/extravagant

Immobile, lying  
face down

# 7 Terraces

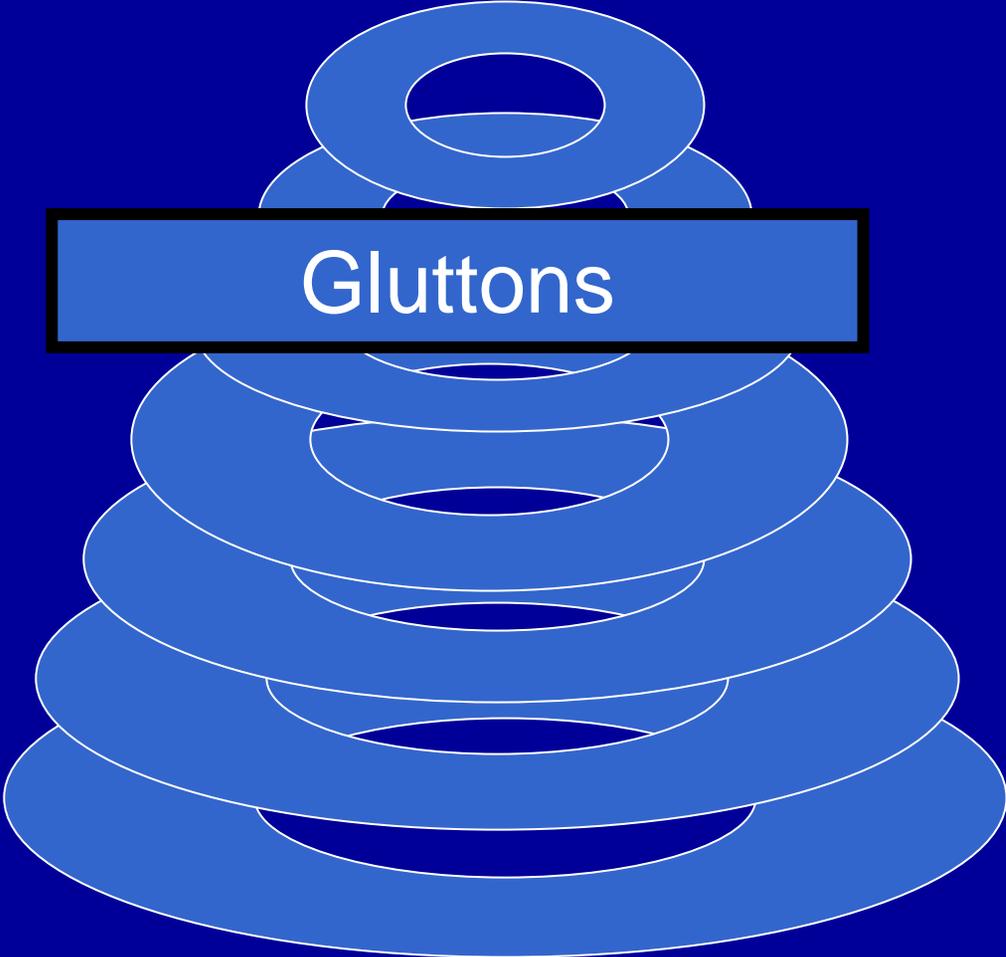


# 7 Terraces



Gluttons

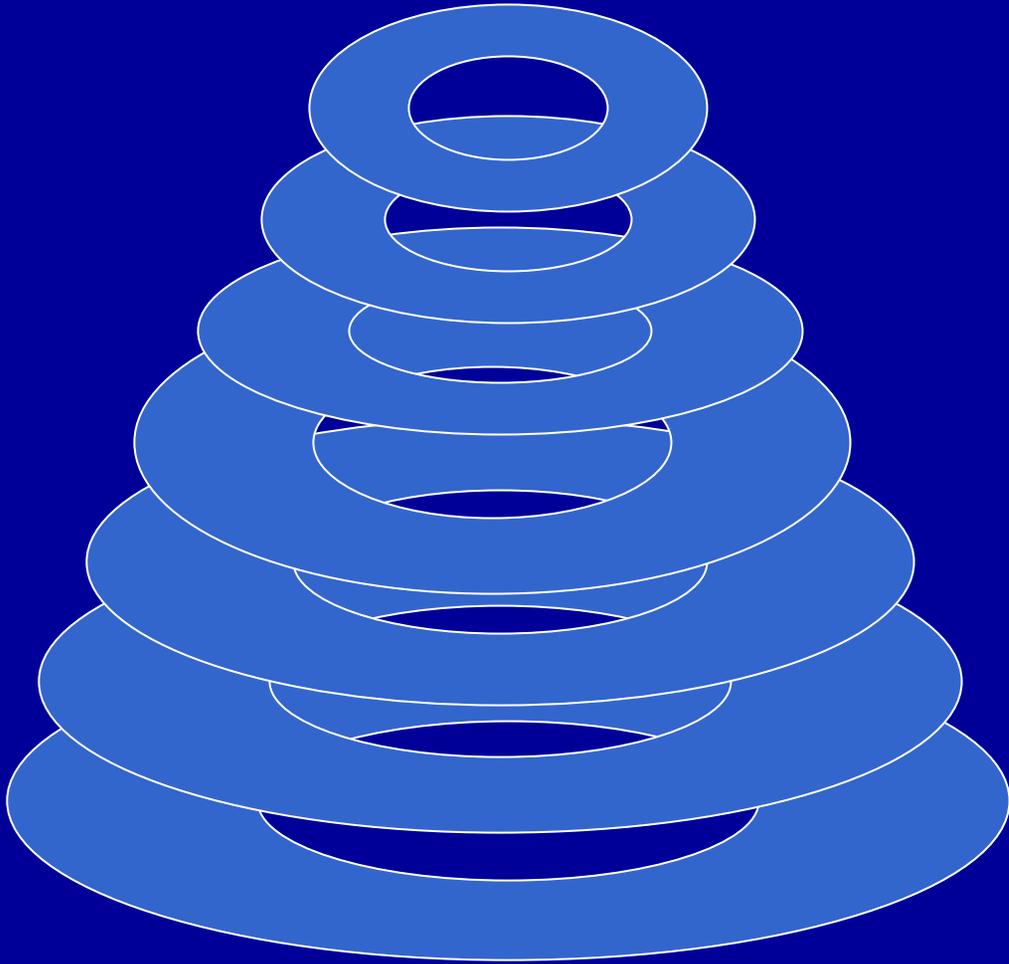
# 7 Terraces



Gluttons

Hungry and  
unable to  
eat/drink

# 7 Terraces



# 7 Terraces



Lust

# 7 Terraces

Lust

Wall of flame





***The Divine Comedy***

A detail from Sandro Botticelli's painting 'The Divine Comedy: Paradise'. The central figure is Dante, dressed in a red robe and a white headpiece, holding an open book. He stands on a path that leads towards a golden, multi-tiered tower in the background. To the right, a large, domed building with a spire is visible. The scene is set against a blue sky with a large, curved archway. The overall style is characteristic of the Italian Renaissance, with fine lines and a focus on perspective.

***Paradiso***

***The Divine Comedy***

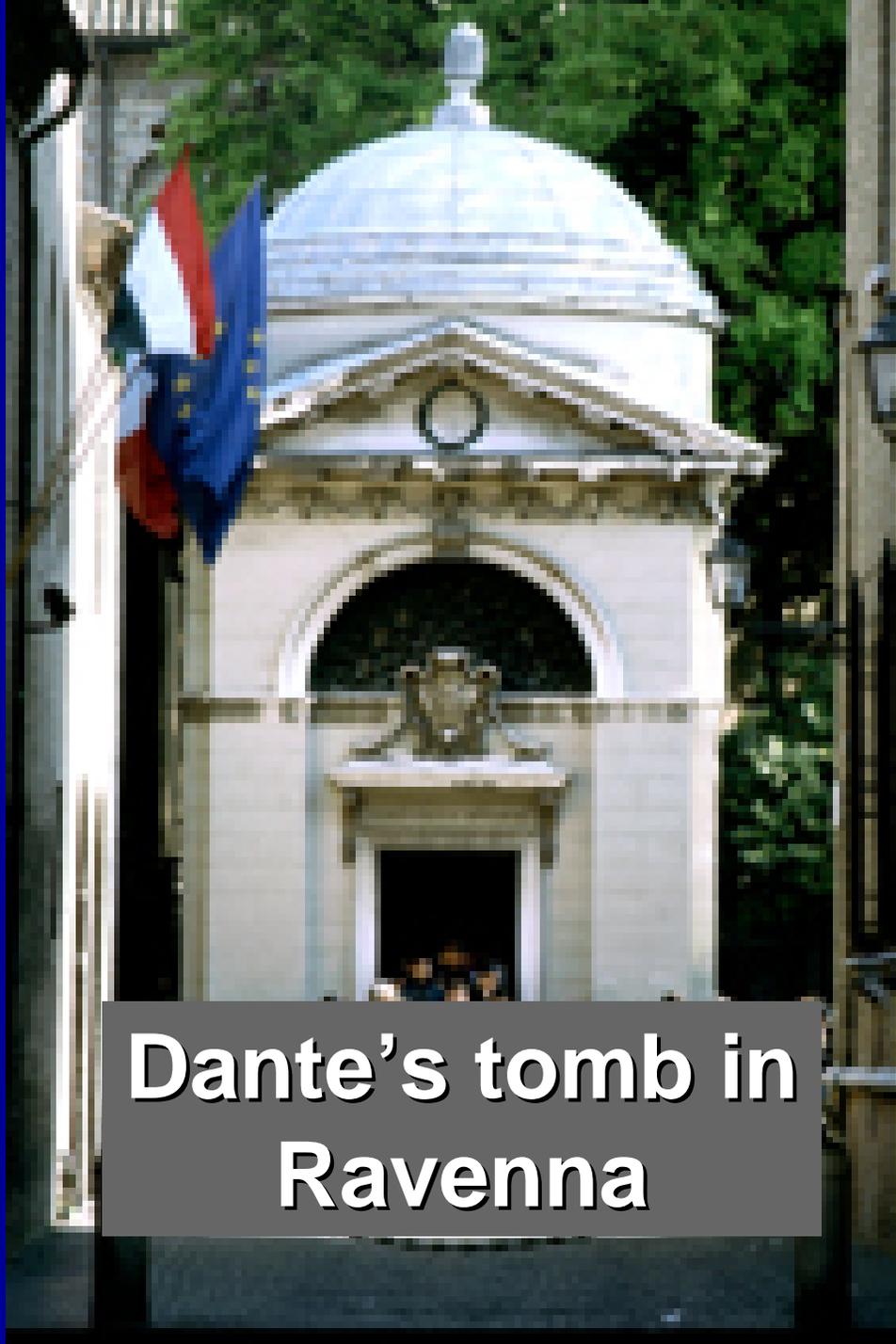


## 9 Spheres of Heaven



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 tricolor 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)