

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”

Rhyming pattern

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

“Poem”

Rhyming pattern

<i>a</i>	<i>class</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>care</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>pass</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>dare</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>too</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>stare</i>

“Poem”

<i>a</i>	<i>class</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>care</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>pass</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>dare</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>too</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>stare</i>

Rhyming pattern

11 syllables per
line

“Poem”

<i>a</i>	<i>class</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>care</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>pass</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>dare</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>too</i>
<i>b</i>	<i>stare</i>

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?

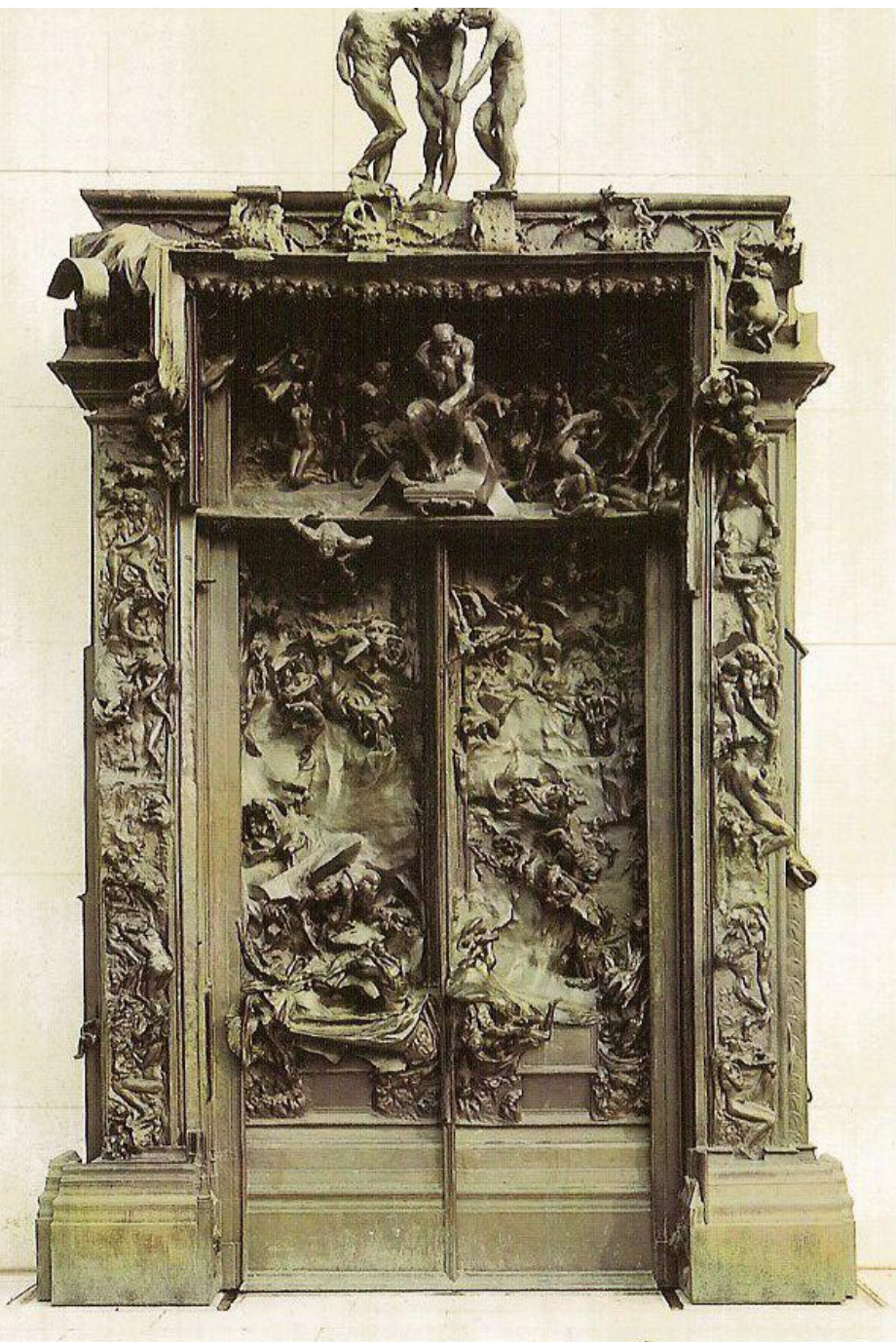
Monumental
Christian Writing

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

A large, stylized white number 3 with a black drop shadow, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Dante's Life

Dante's
Comedy

So we structure class around Dante's number 3

A large, stylized white number 3 with a black drop shadow, positioned on the left side of the slide.

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



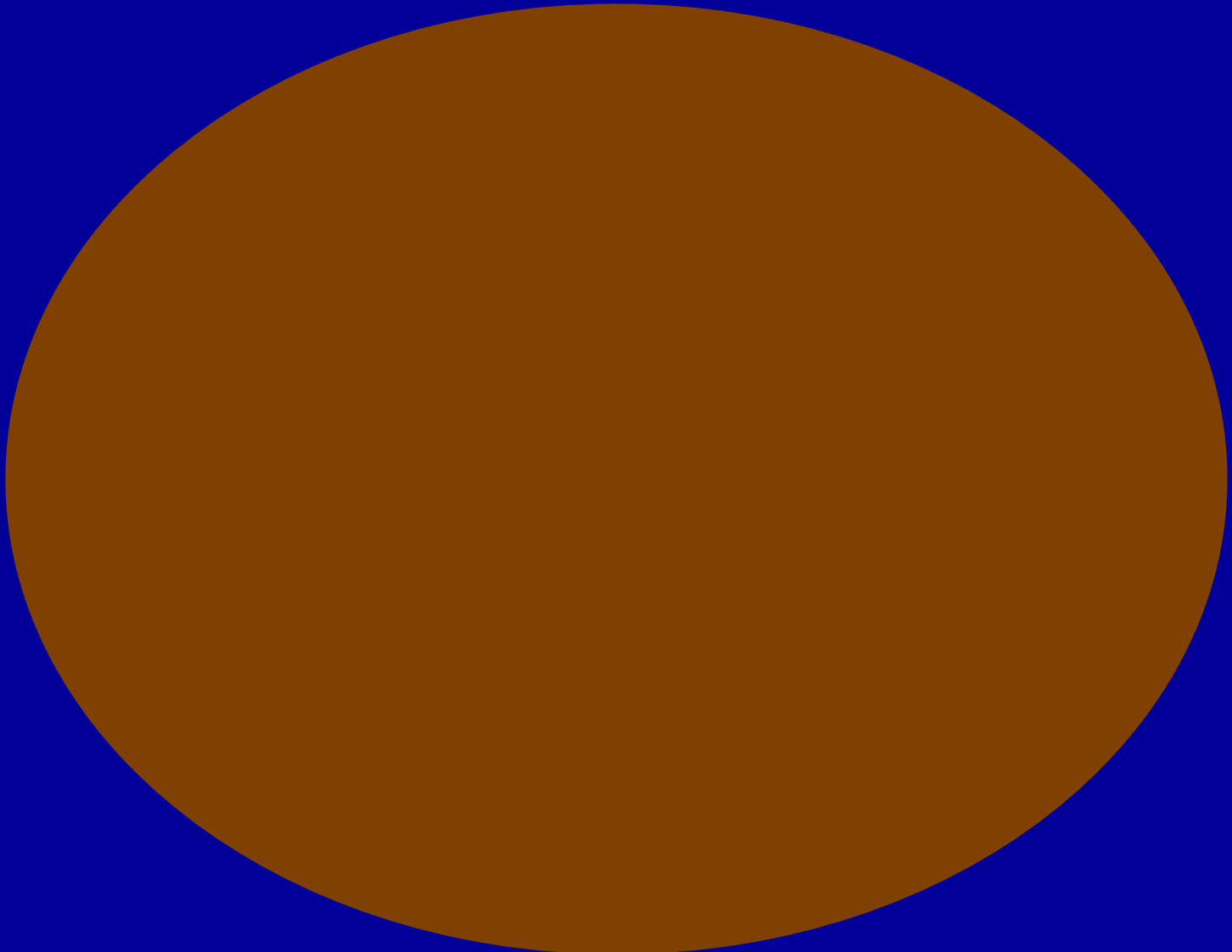
Leave every Hope you have in Satan



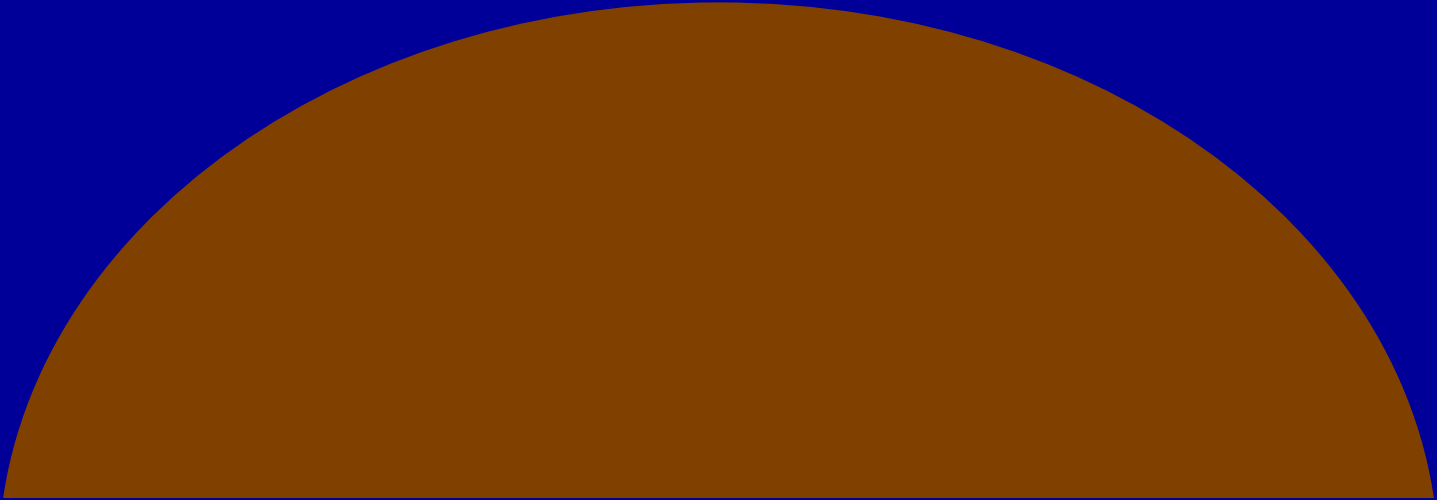


“Leave every hope
you who enter in”

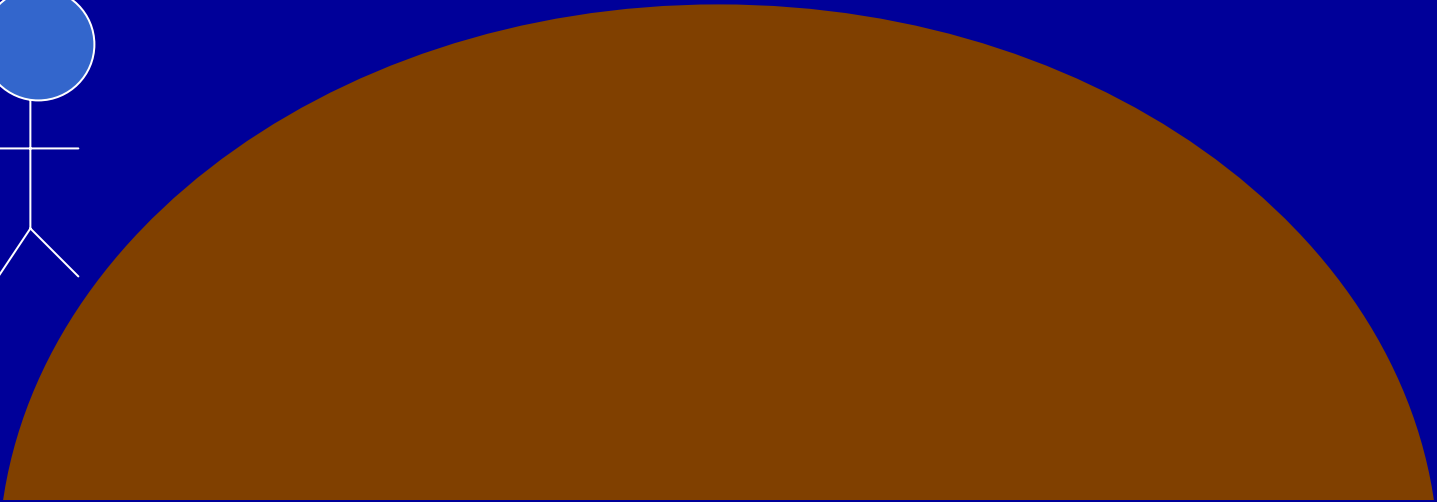
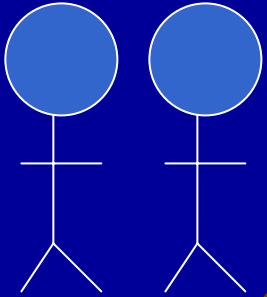
Dante's World



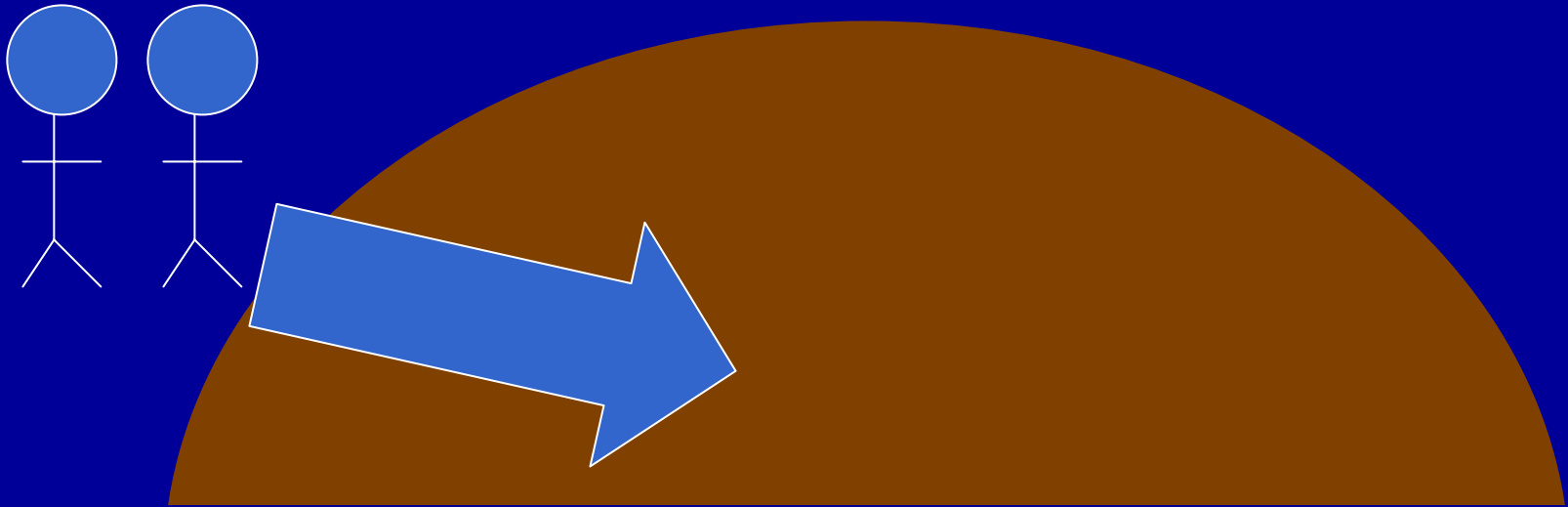
Dante's World



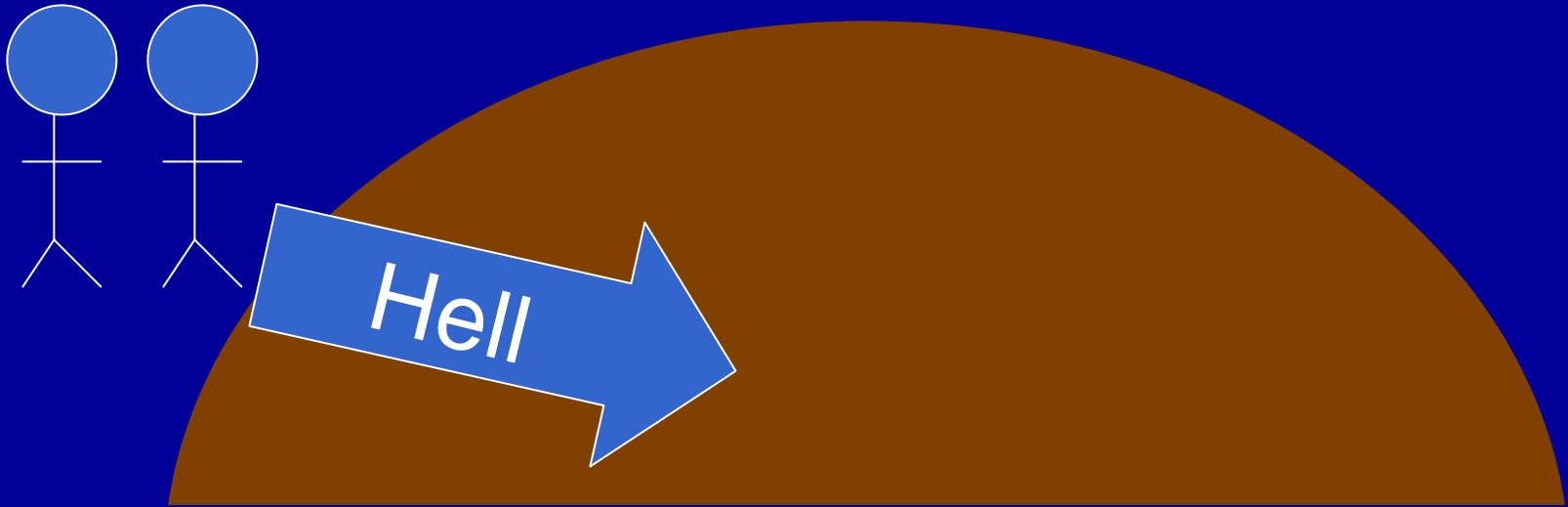
Dante's World



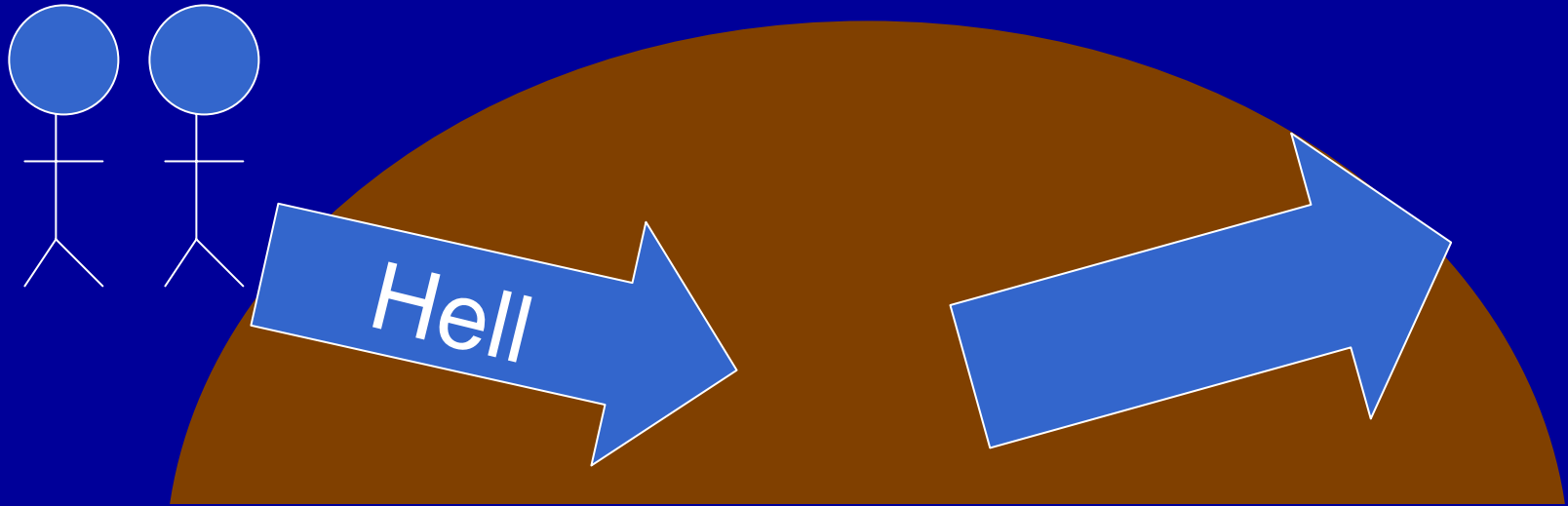
Dante's World



Dante's World

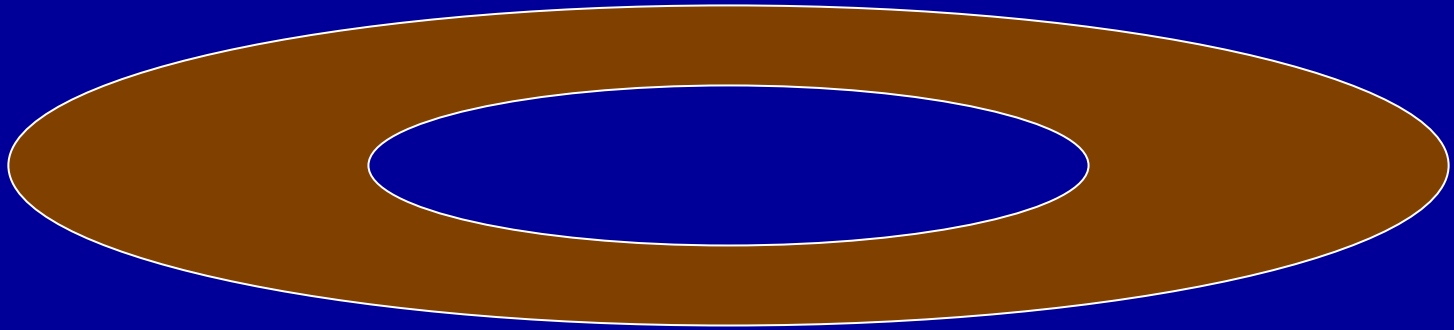


Dante's World

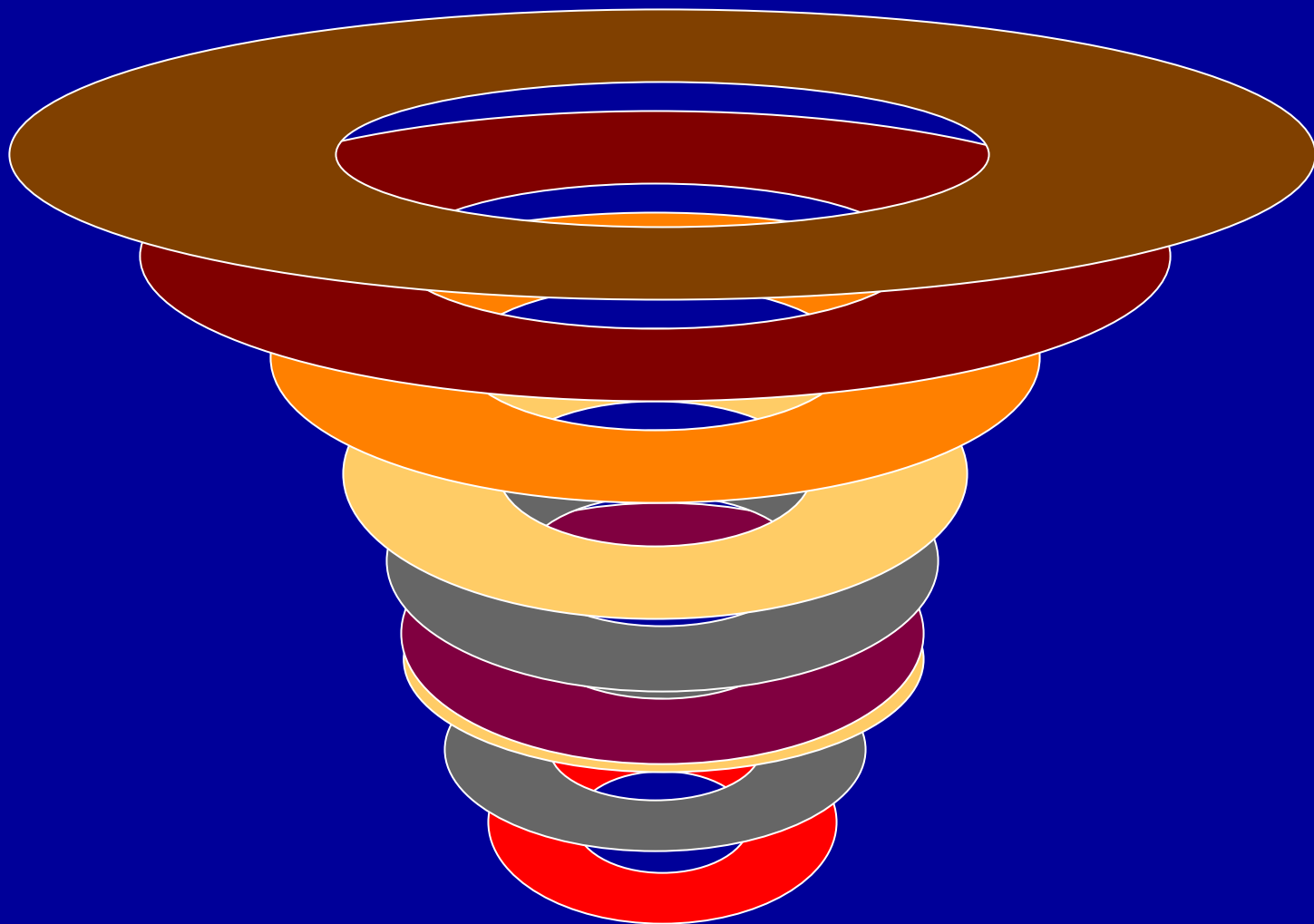


Dante's Hell is in circles

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”





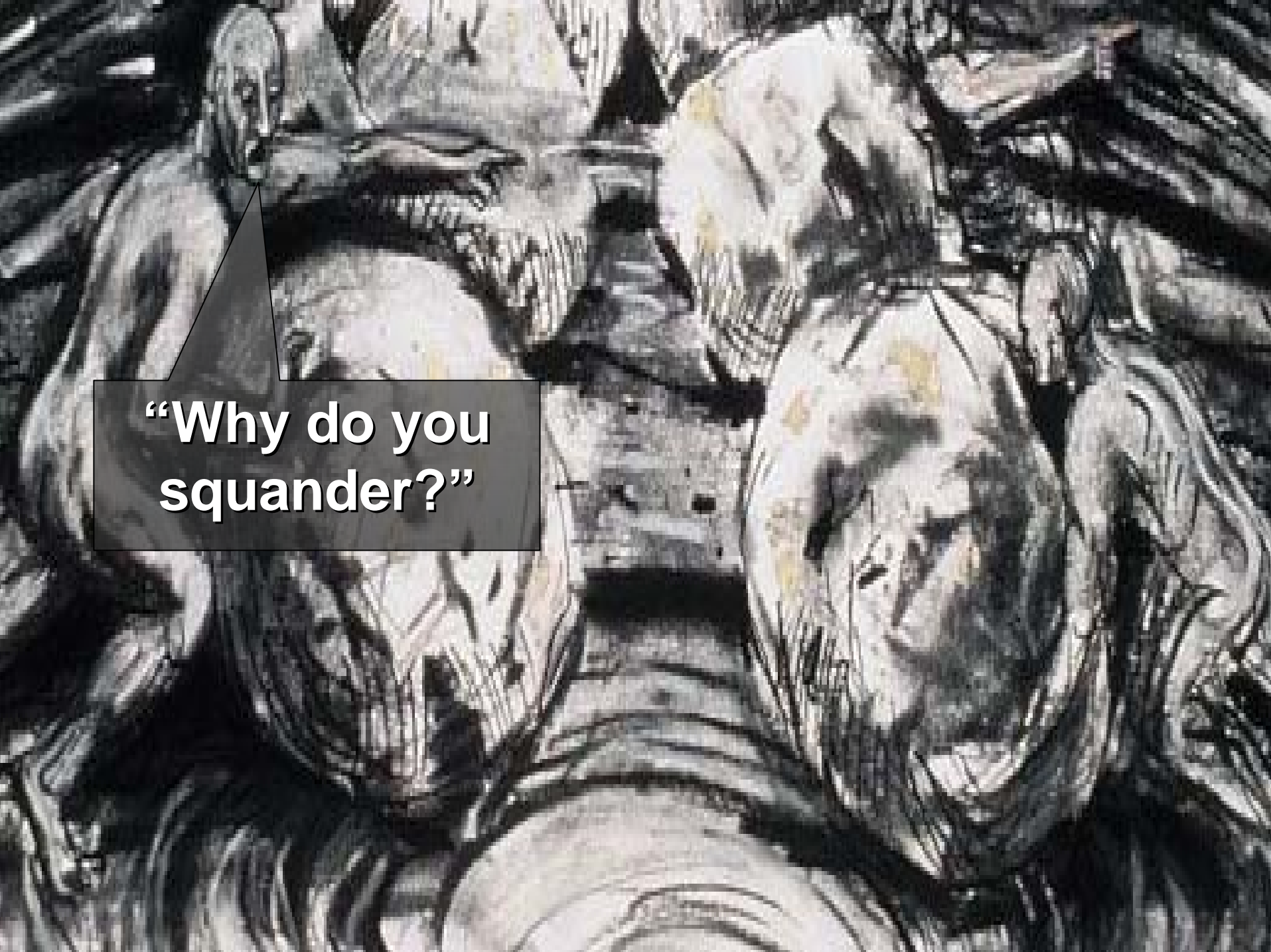
“filled with cold, unending, heavy and accursed
rain ... Gross hailstones, water gray with filth”



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







**“Why do you
squander?”**




“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”

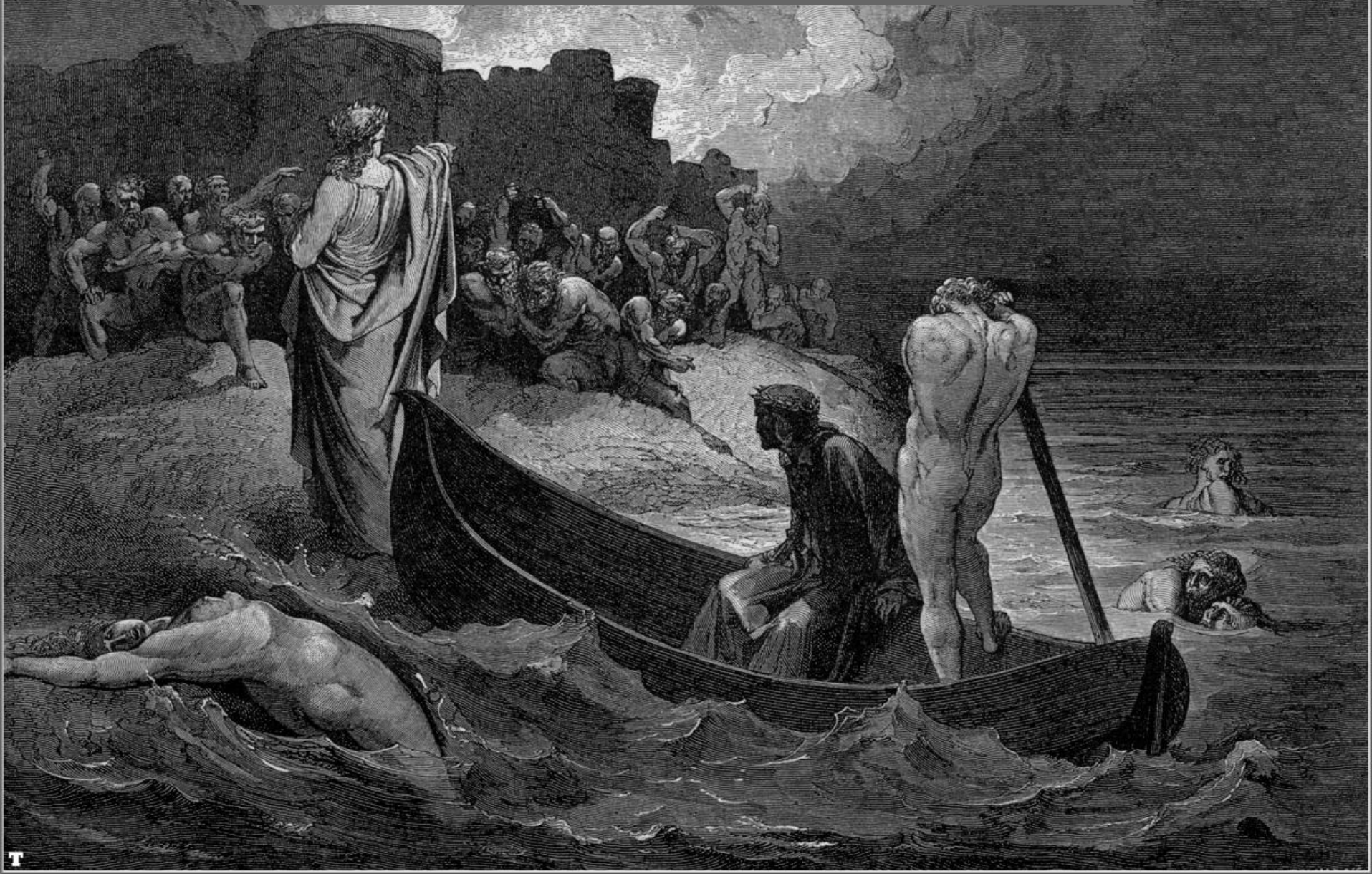


This is a detail from Michelangelo's famous fresco 'The Creation of Adam'. It focuses on the two central figures: Adam, who is reclining and looking upwards with a pained expression, and another man who is leaning over him, wrestling him. Both figures are depicted with intense musculature and are unclothed. In the background, two other figures are visible: one in a grey cloak and another in a red garment, both looking on. A winged figure, likely an angel, is also present in the upper background. The scene is set against a dark, dramatic sky.

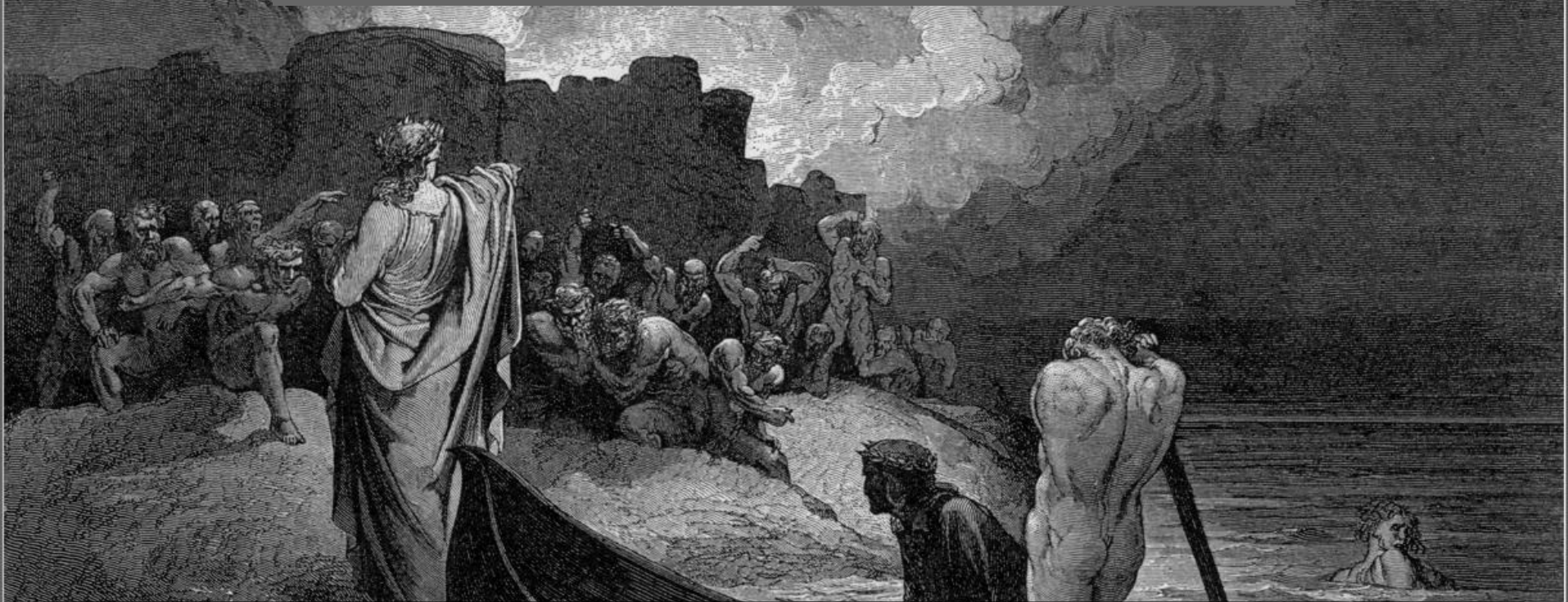
Eternity hitting
“not with hands
alone, but with
their heads and
 chests and with
their feet” tearing
“each other
piecemeal with
their teeth”

“The souls of those whom anger has
defeated”

Actively anti-God



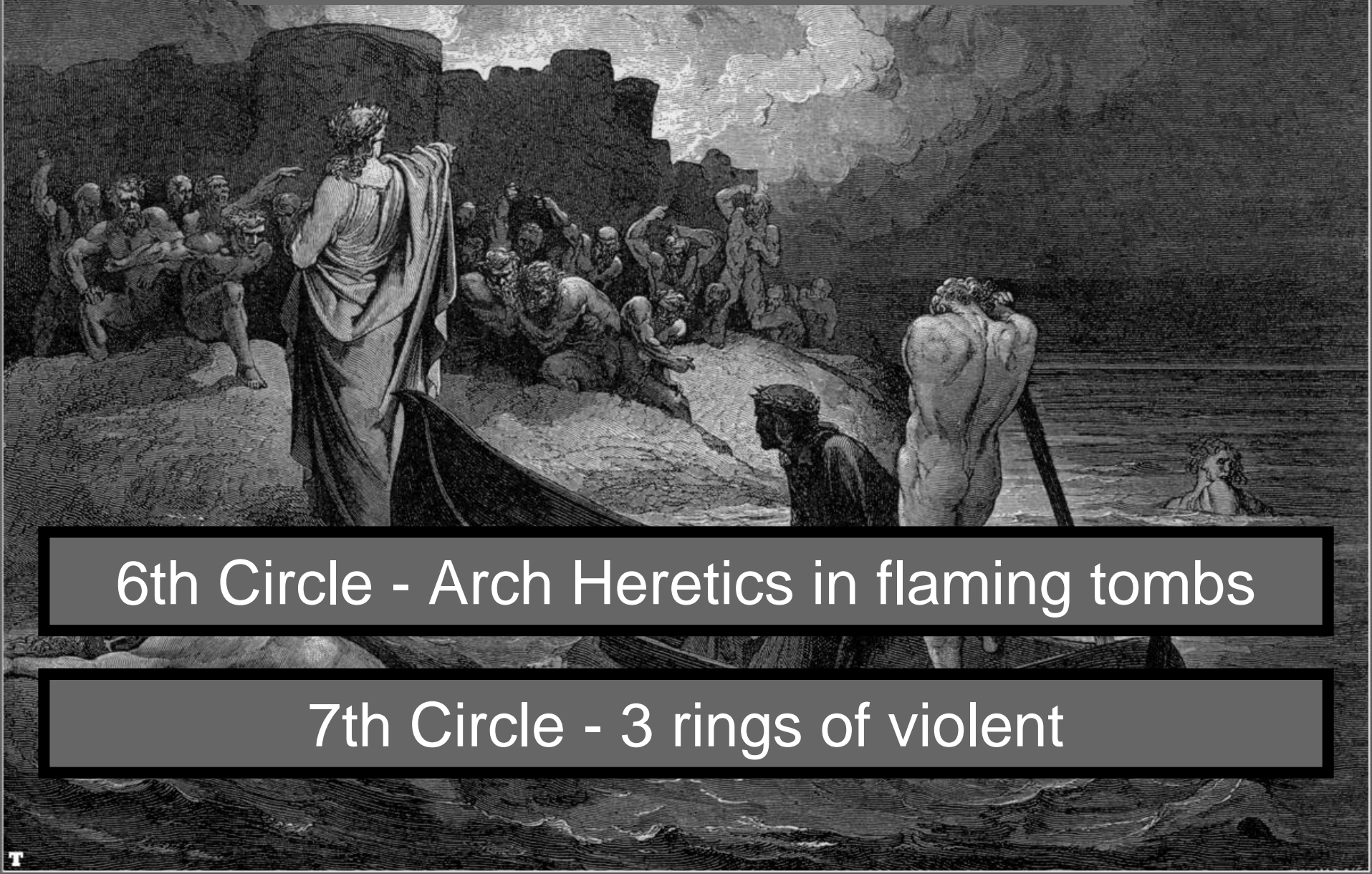
Actively anti-God



6th Circle - Arch Heretics in flaming tombs



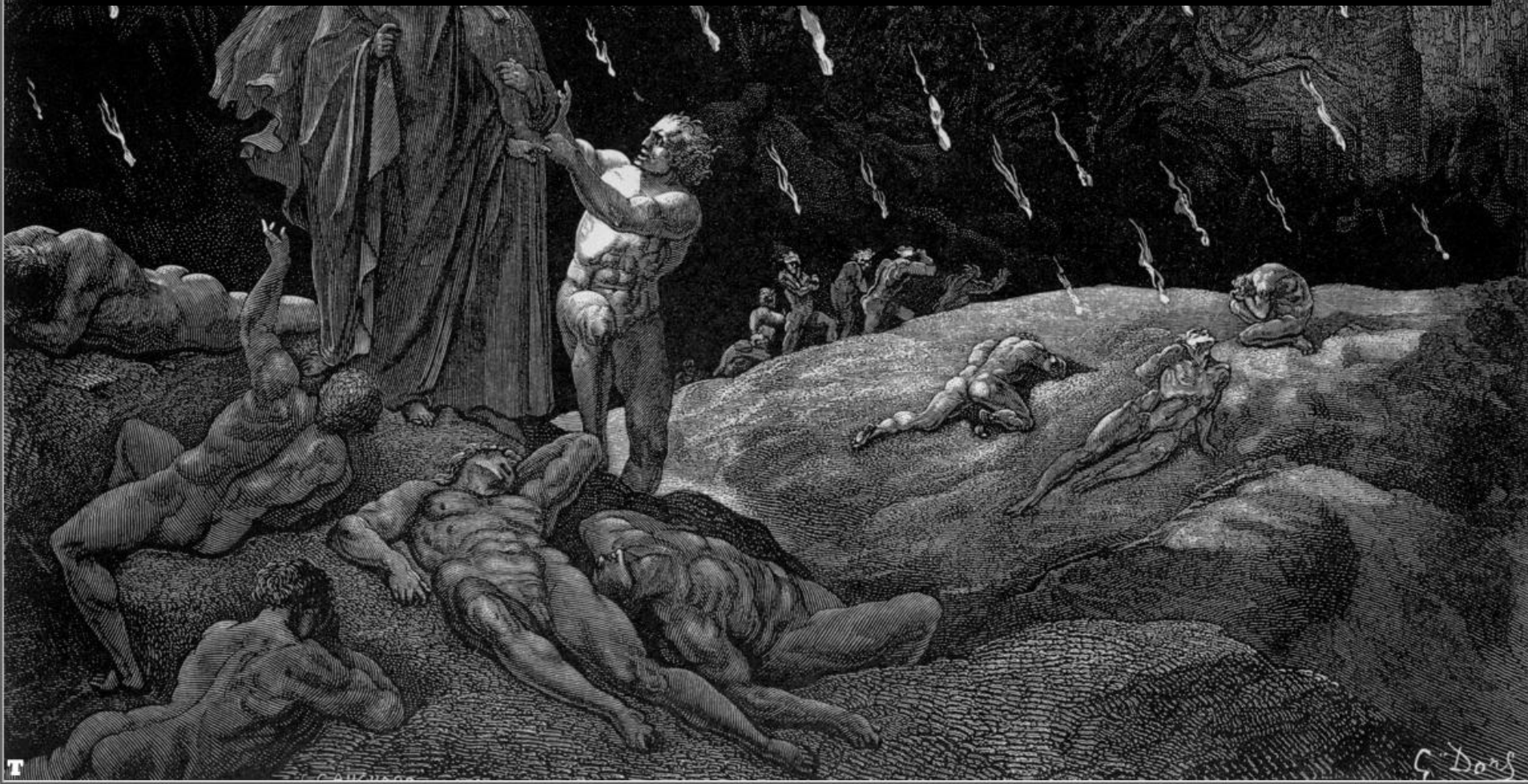
Actively anti-God



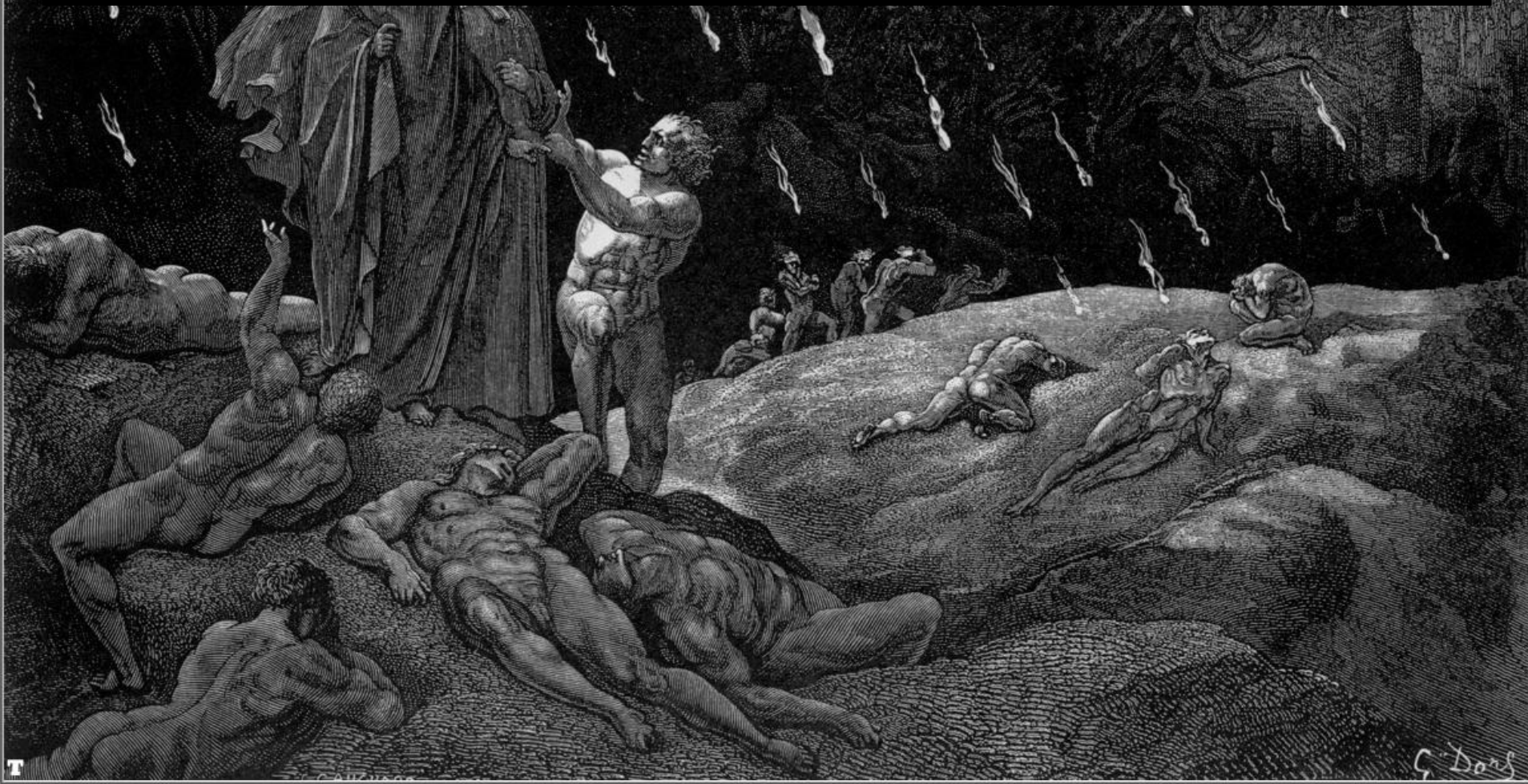
6th Circle - Arch Heretics in flaming tombs

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

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:

Flatterers:

Simoners:

Fortune

Tellers:

Whipped by demons

Eternity in excrement

Buried headfirst in rock

Head backwards

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Flatterers:

Simoners:

Fortune

Tellers:

Corrupt

Politicians:

Whipped by demons

Eternity in excrement

Buried headfirst in rock

Head backwards

8th Circle - 10 pockets of deliberate evil

Pimps:

Flatterers:

Simoners:

Fortune

Tellers:

Corrupt

Politicians:

Whipped by demons

Eternity in excrement

Buried headfirst in rock

Head backwards

Lake of boiling tar



SEP 19 2003





The Divine Comedy

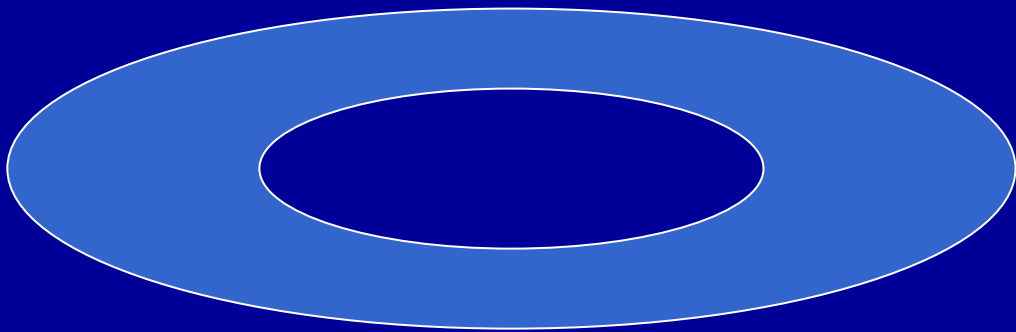


Purgatorio

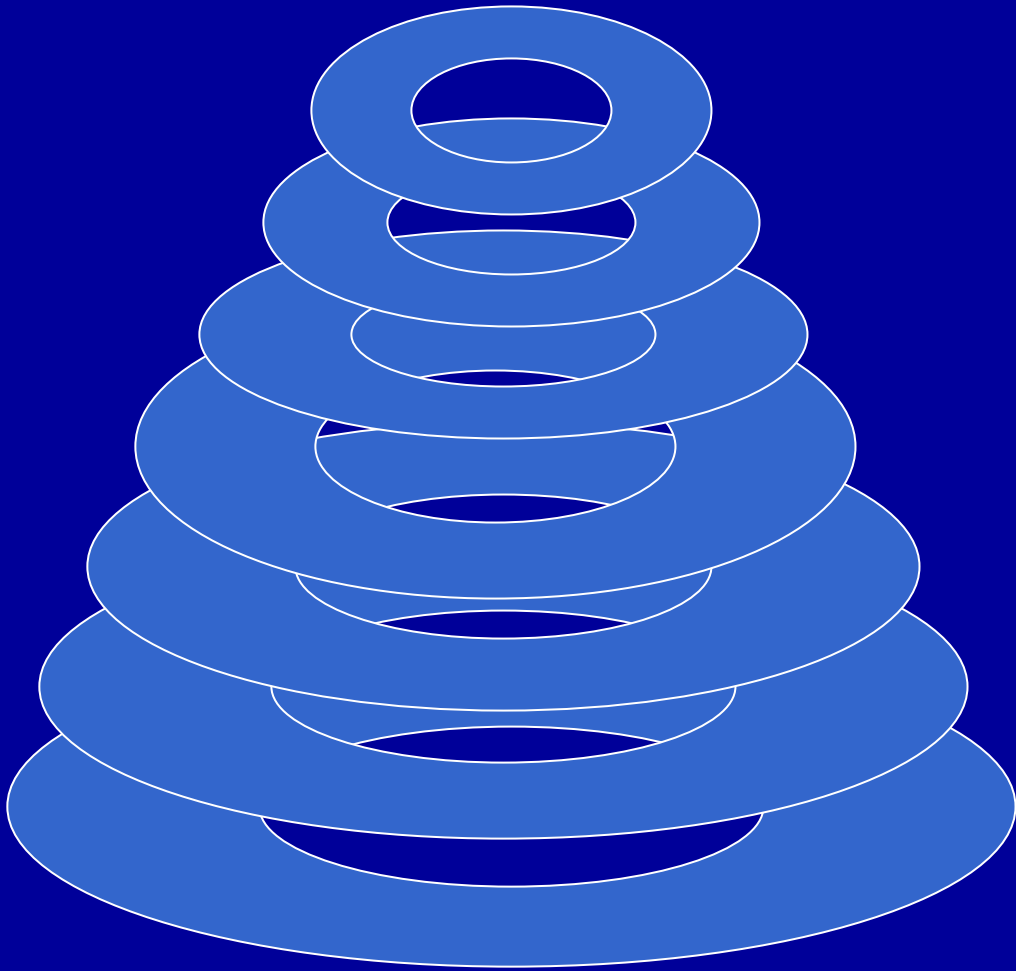
The Divine Comedy

7 Terraces

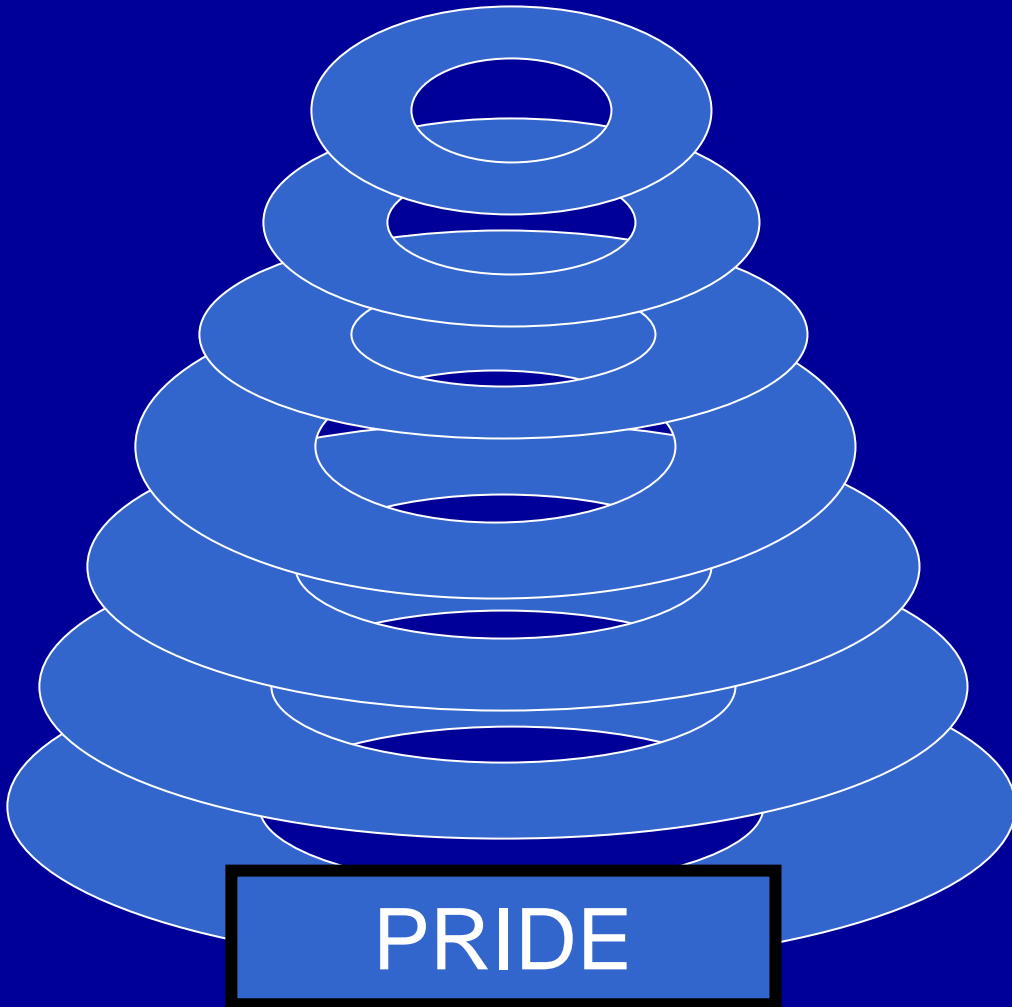
7 Terraces



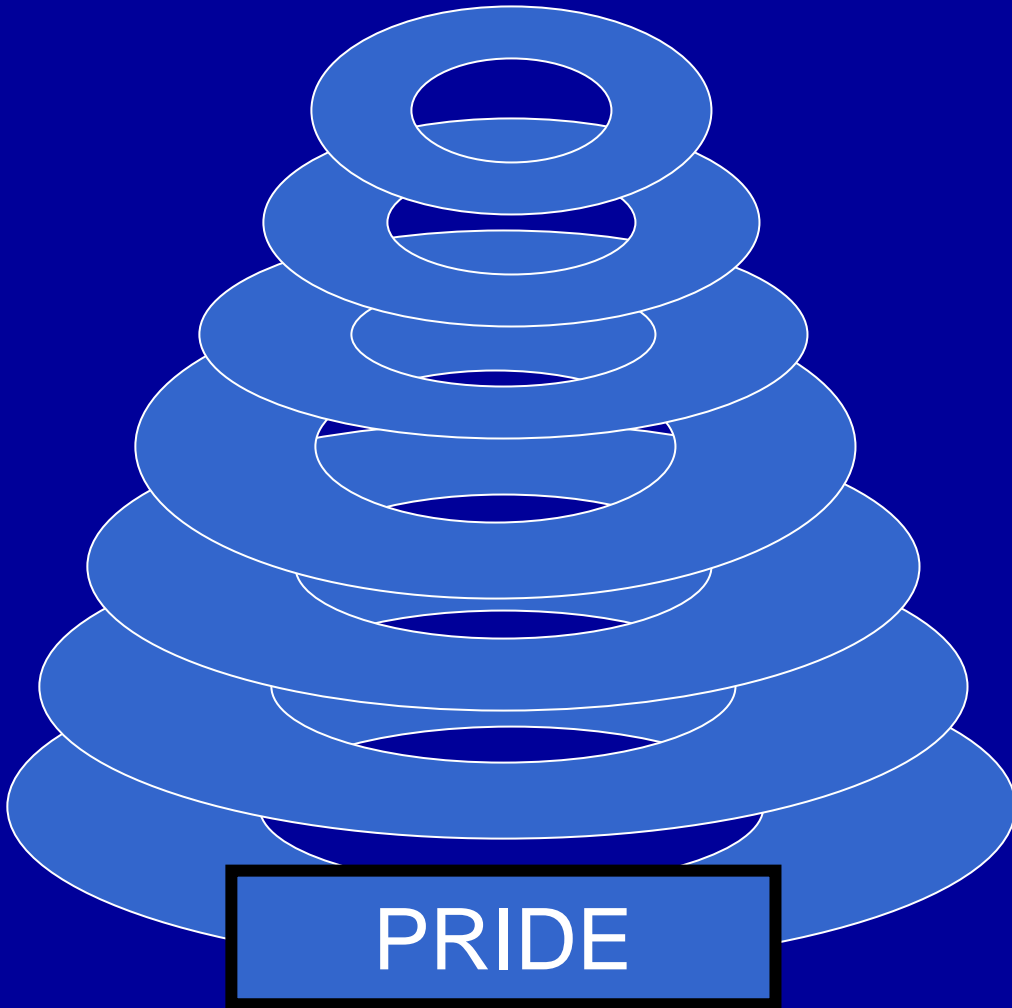
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

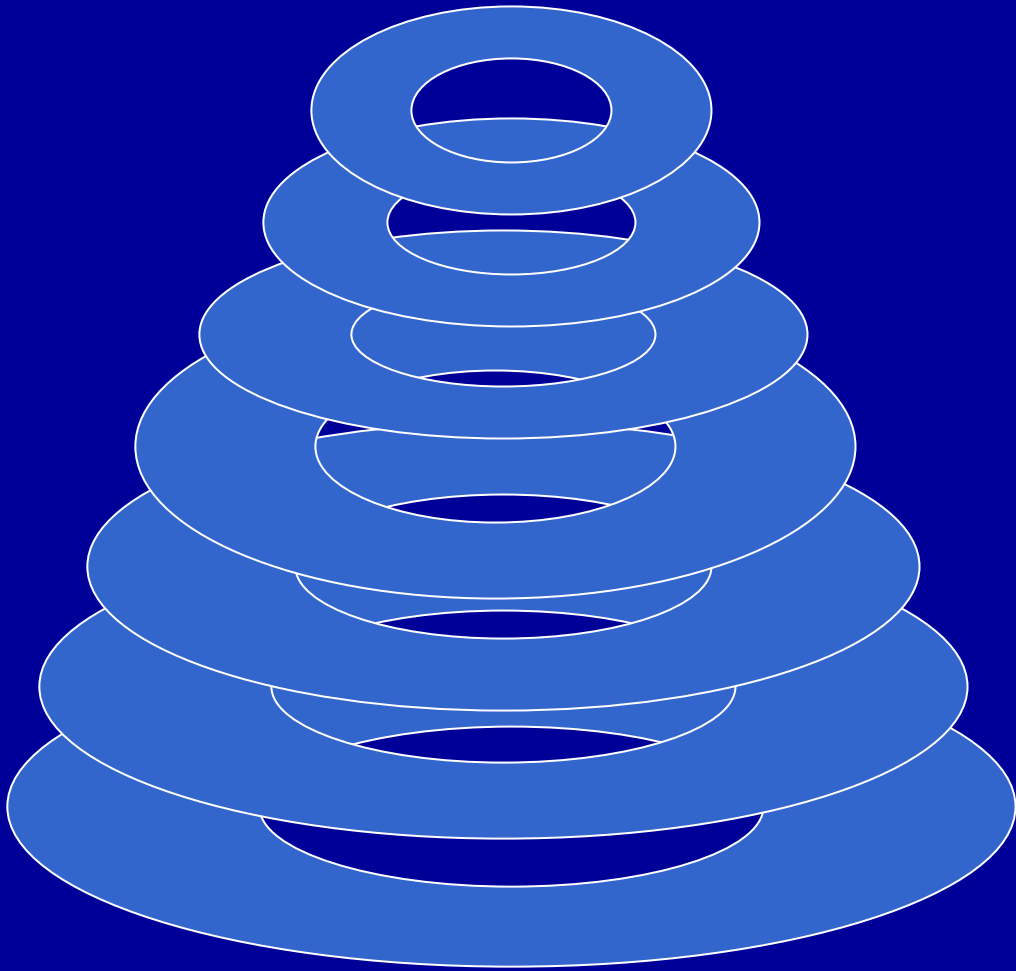


7 Terraces

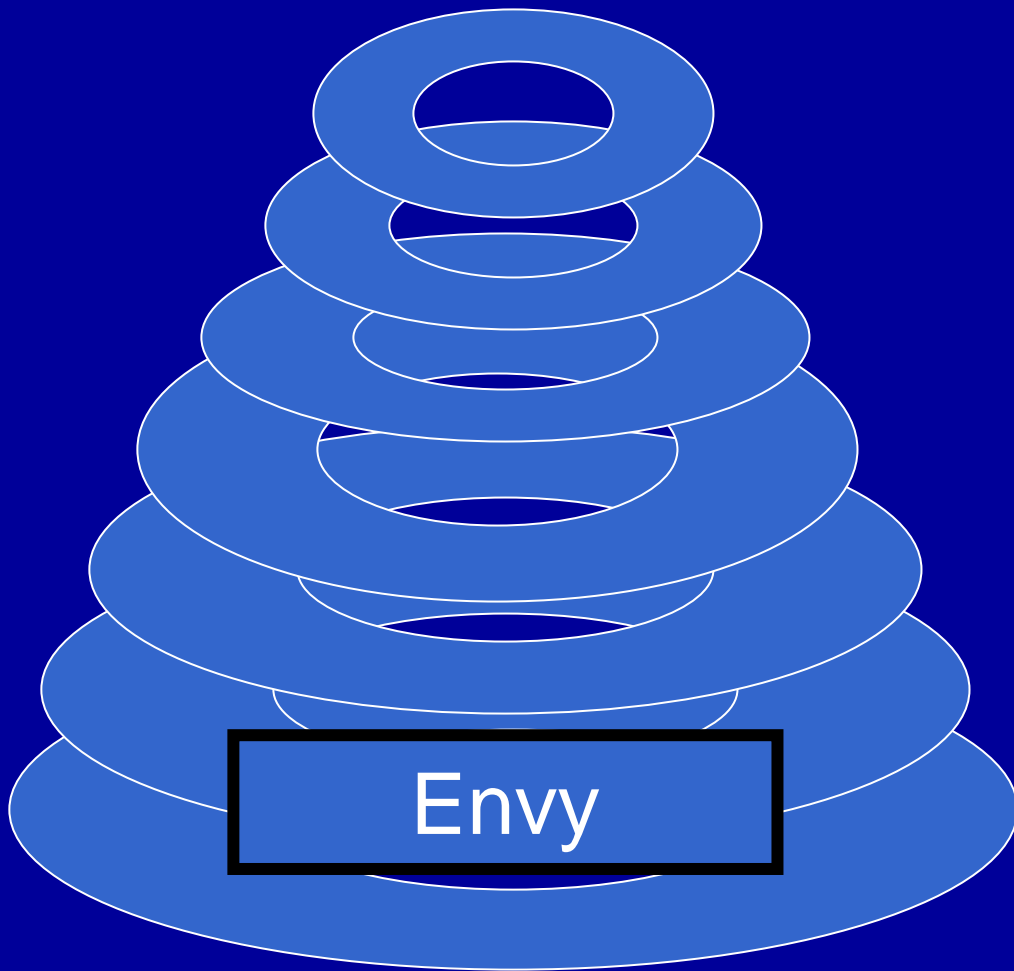


Stones on back

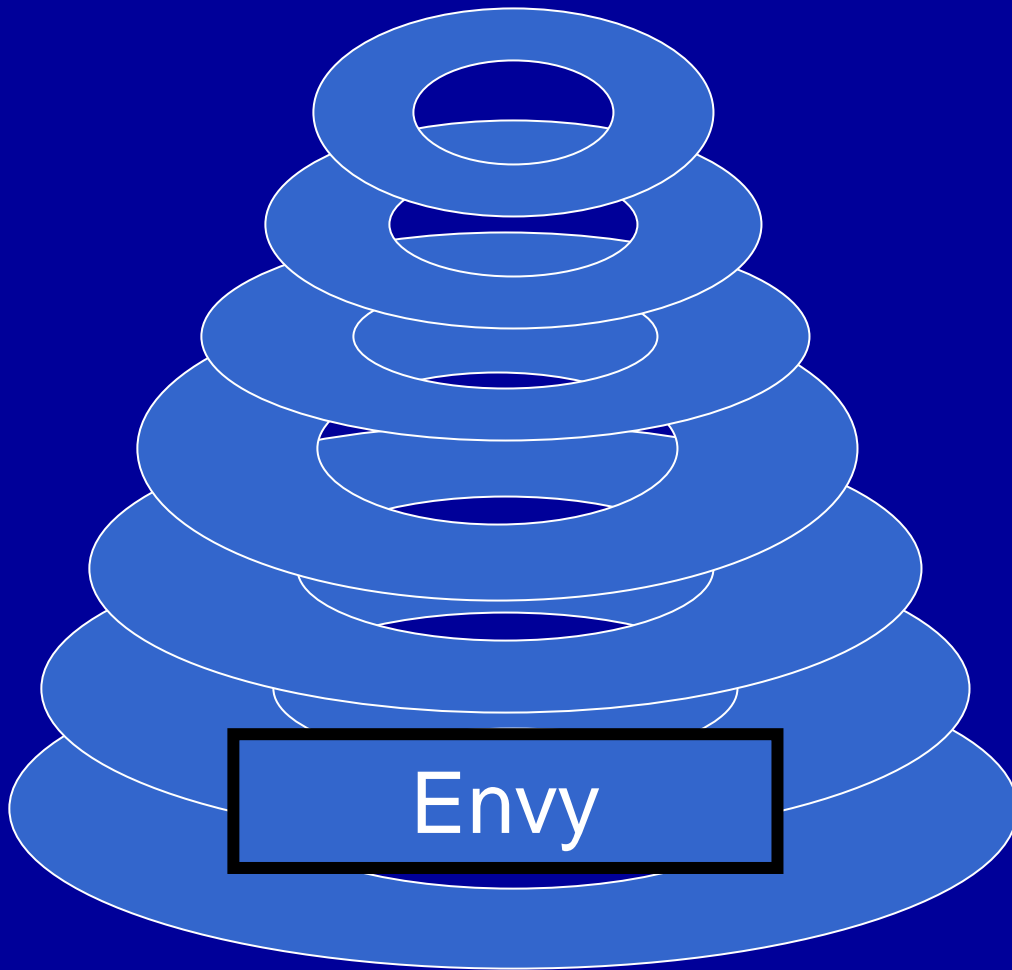
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

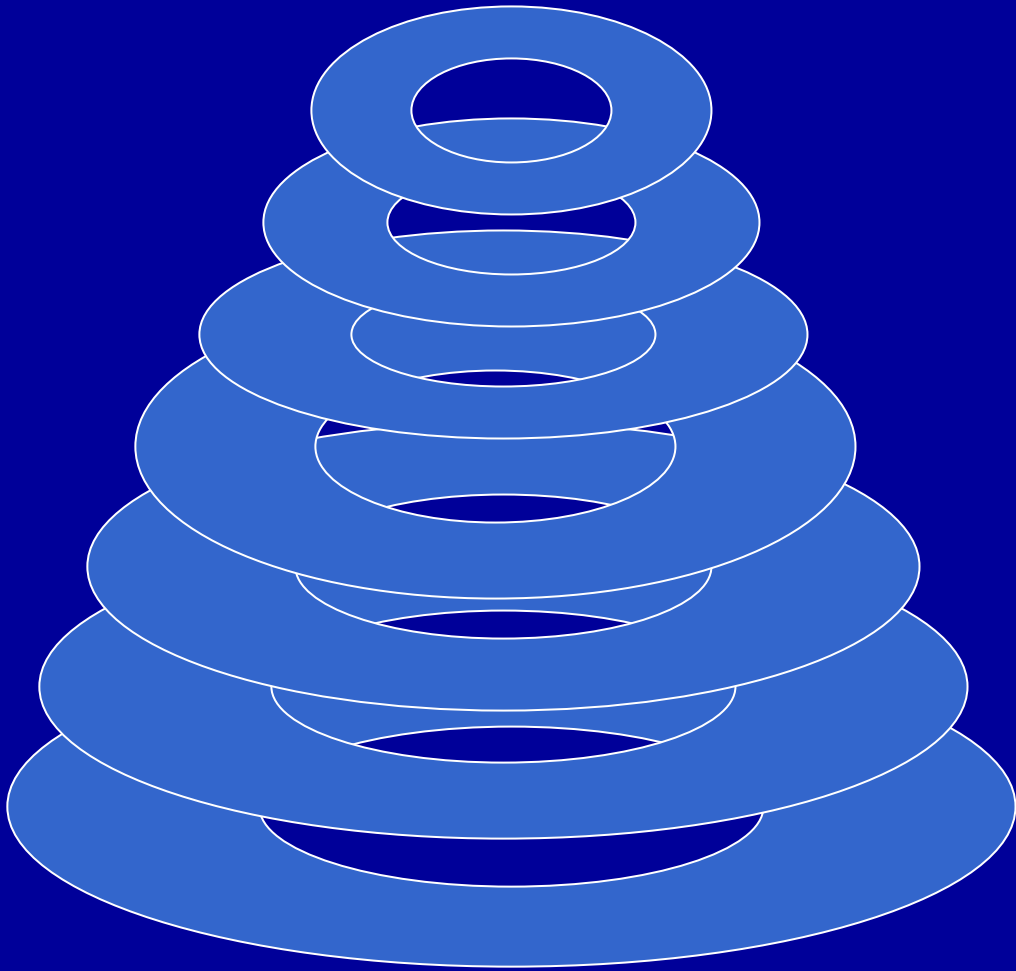


7 Terraces

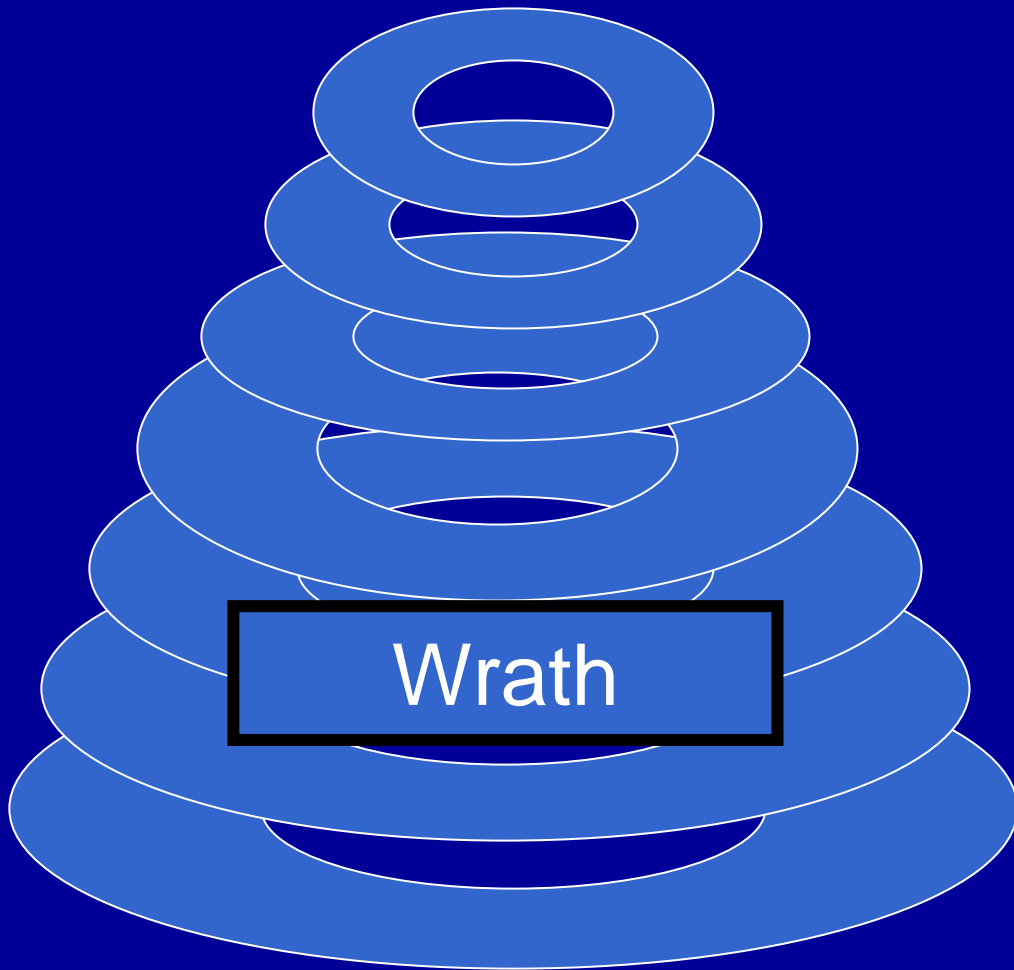


Eyes sewed
shut

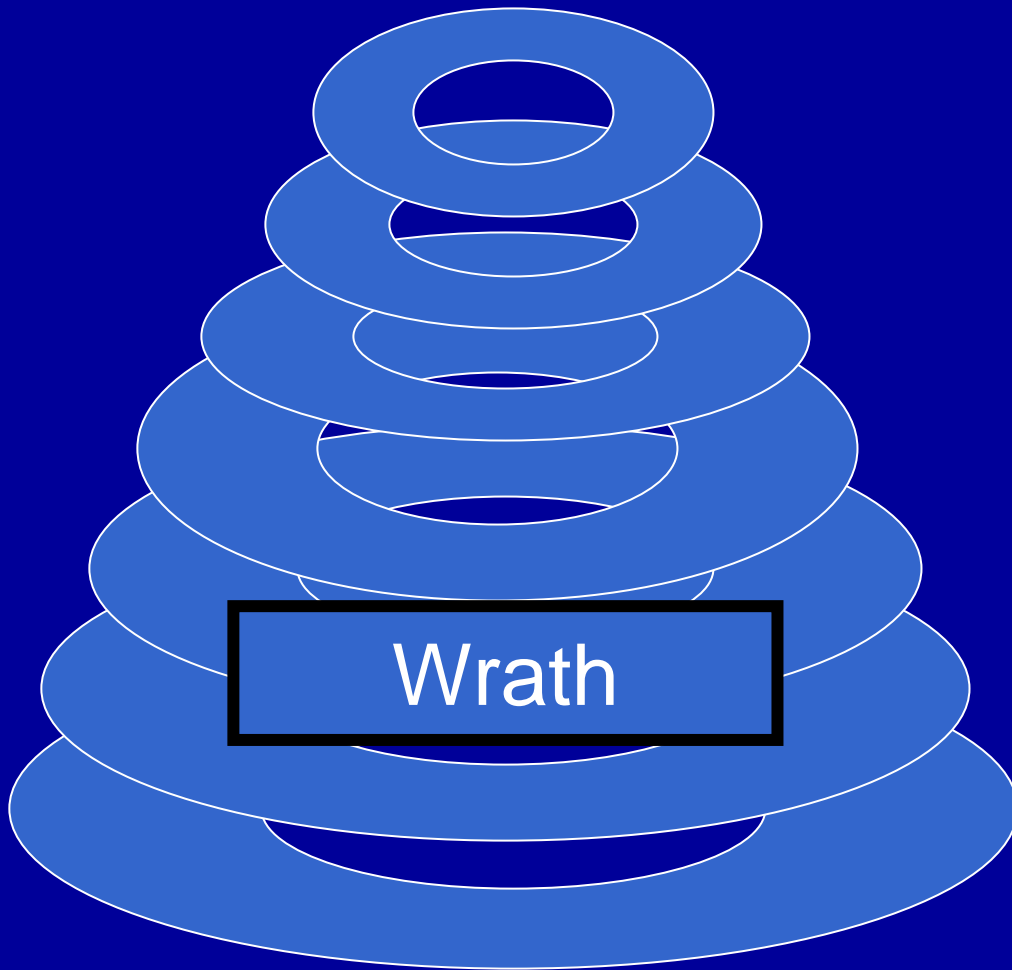
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

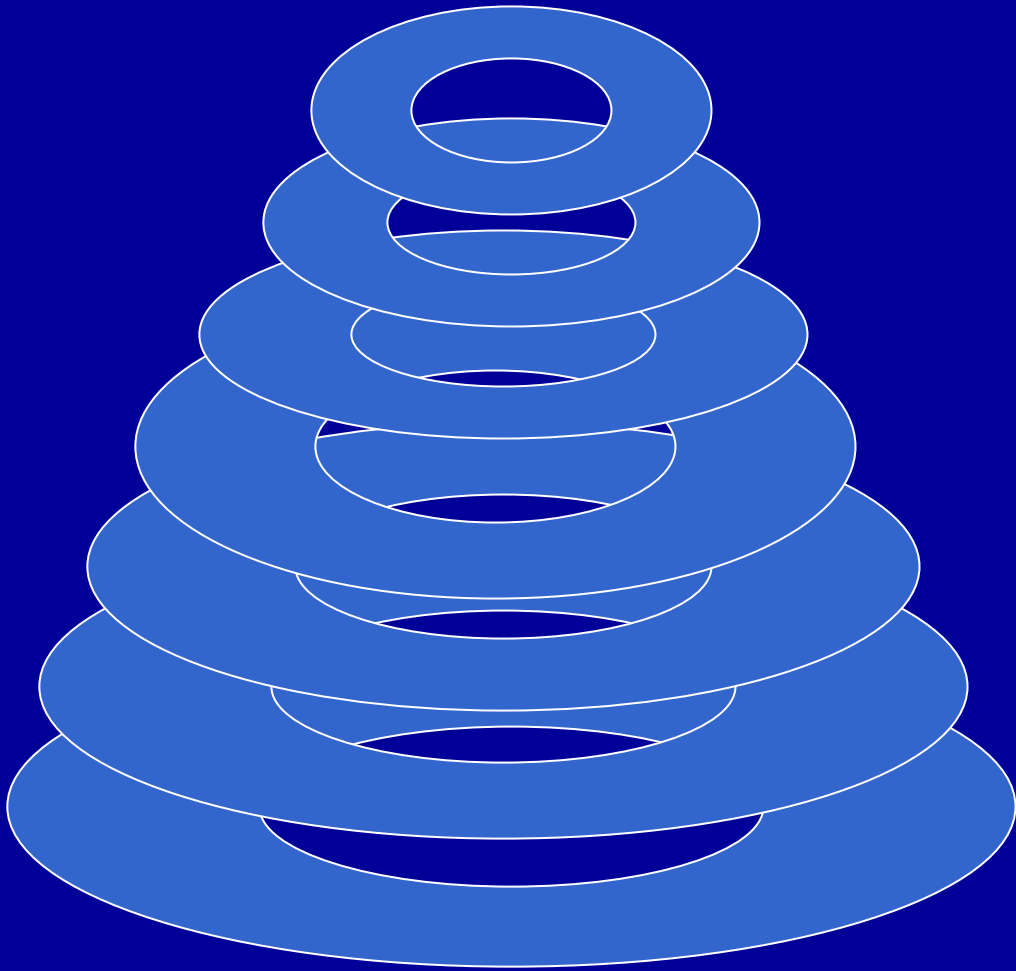


7 Terraces

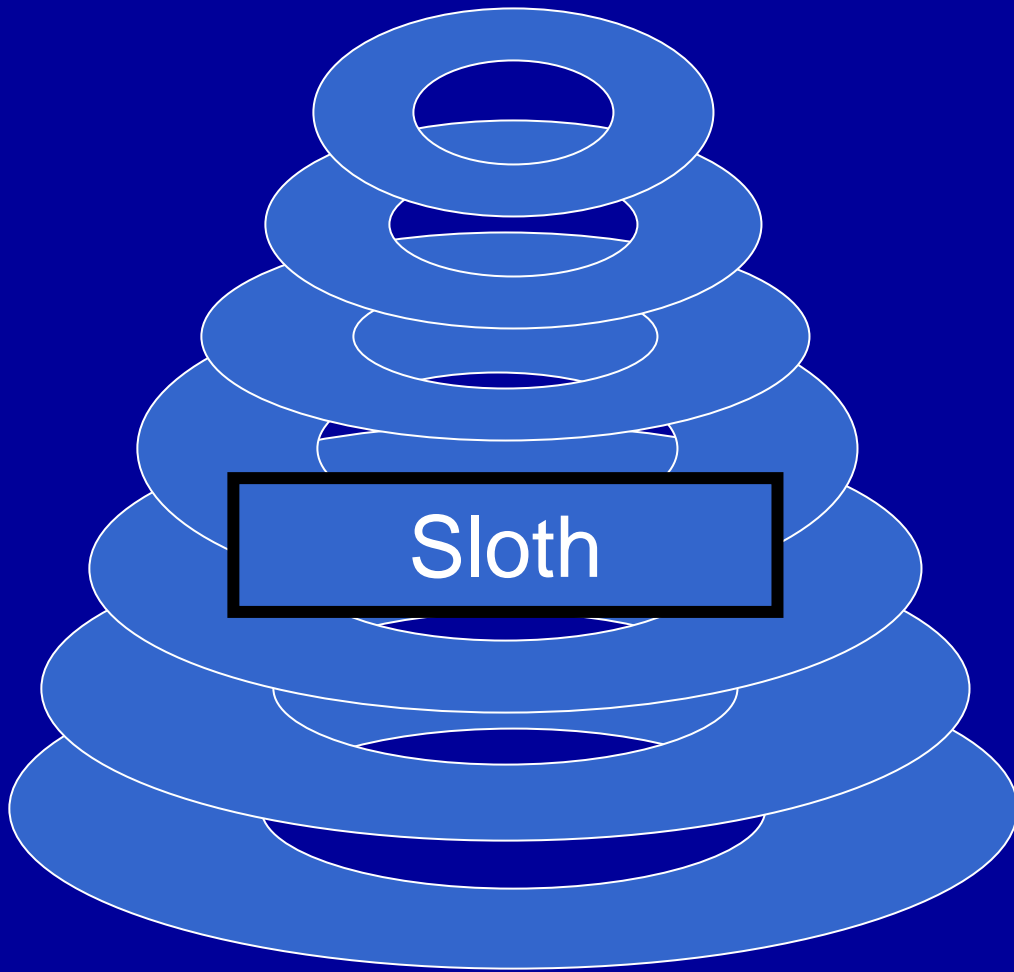


Burning foul
smelling smoke

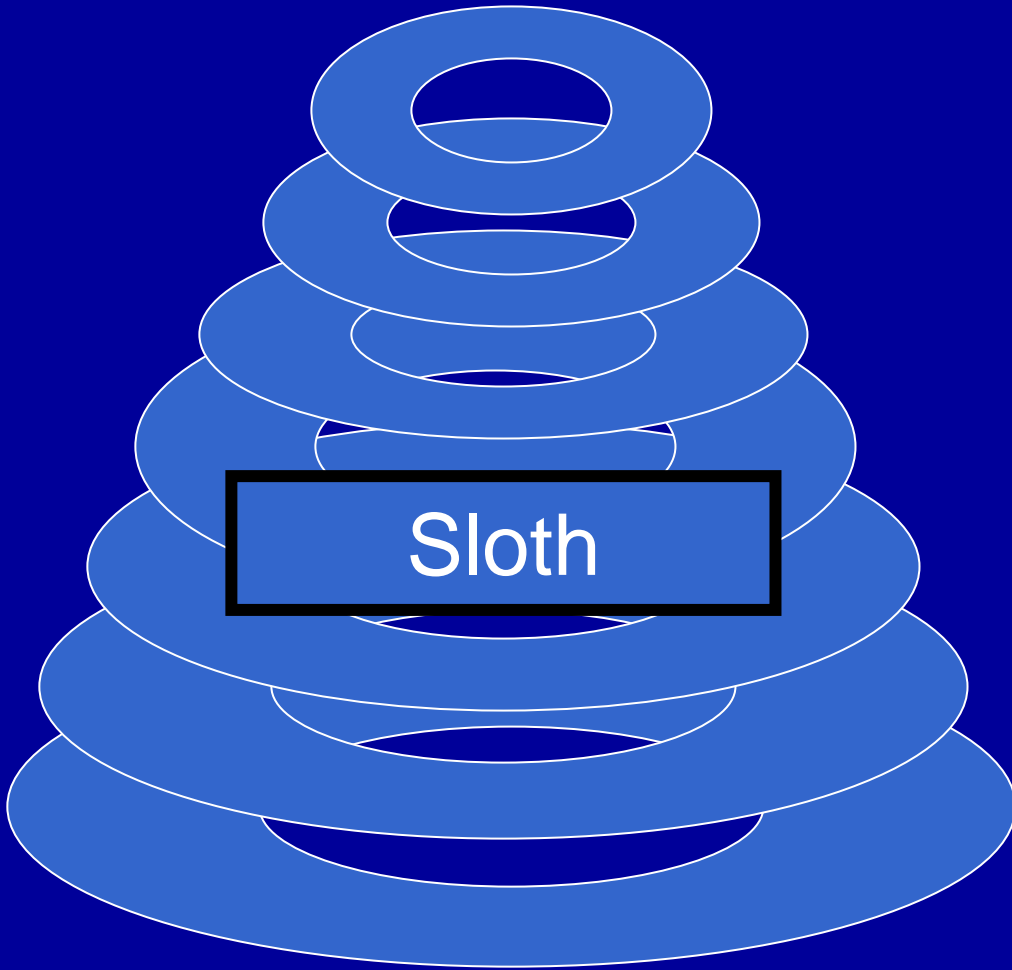
7 Terraces



7 Terraces

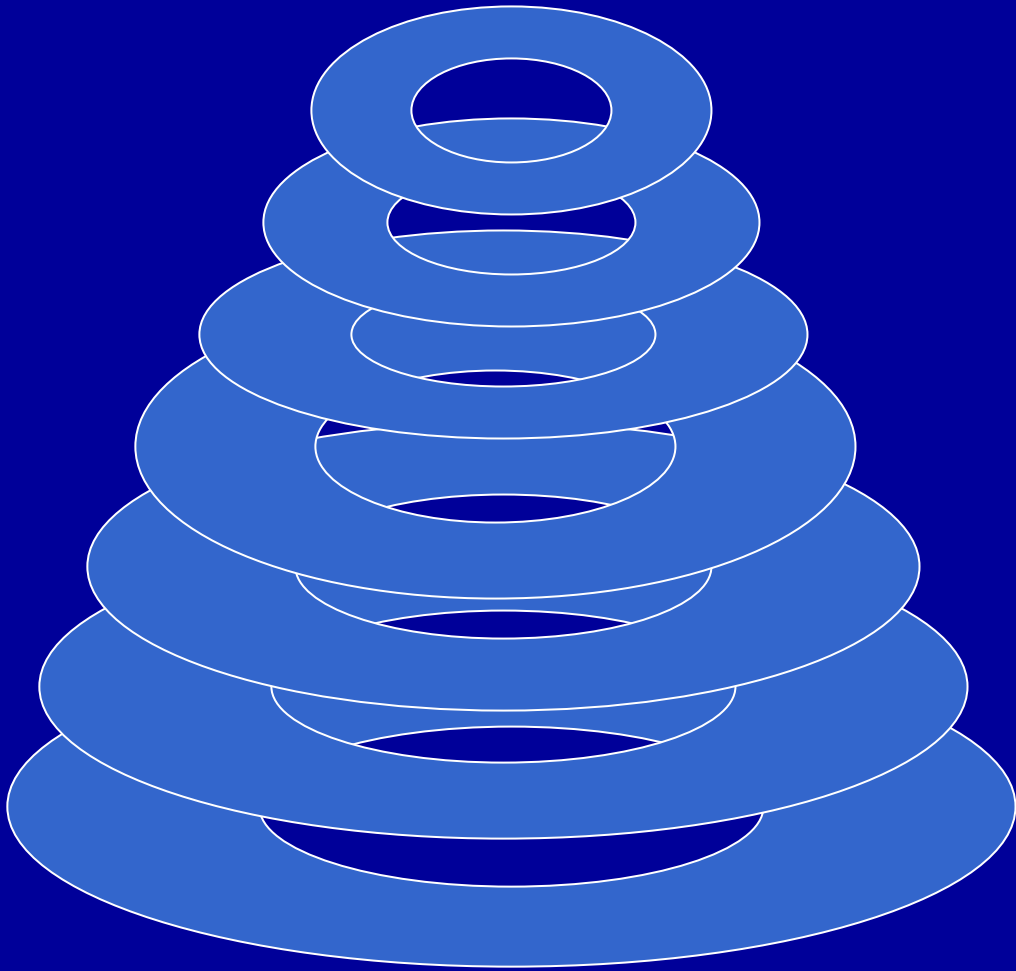


7 Terraces



Running!

7 Terraces



7 Terraces



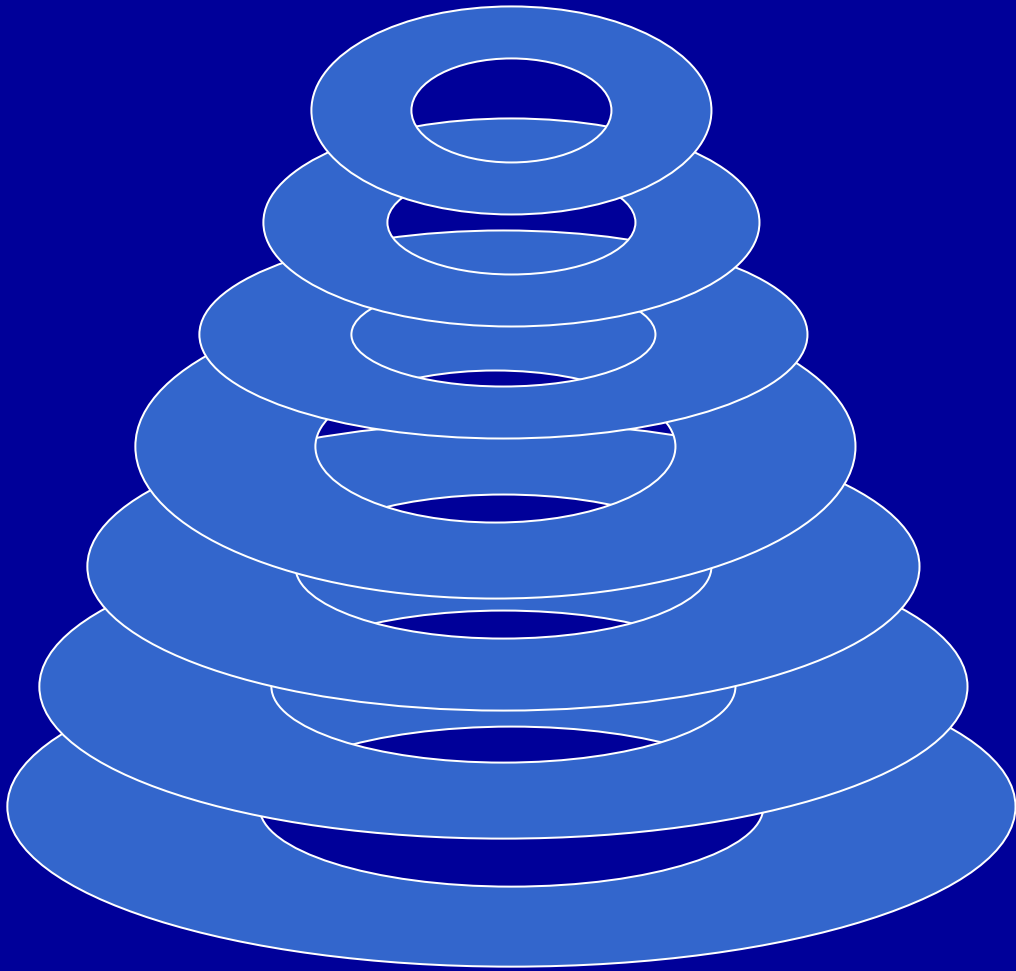
7 Terraces



Greedy/extravagant

Immobile, lying
face down

7 Terraces



7 Terraces



Gluttons

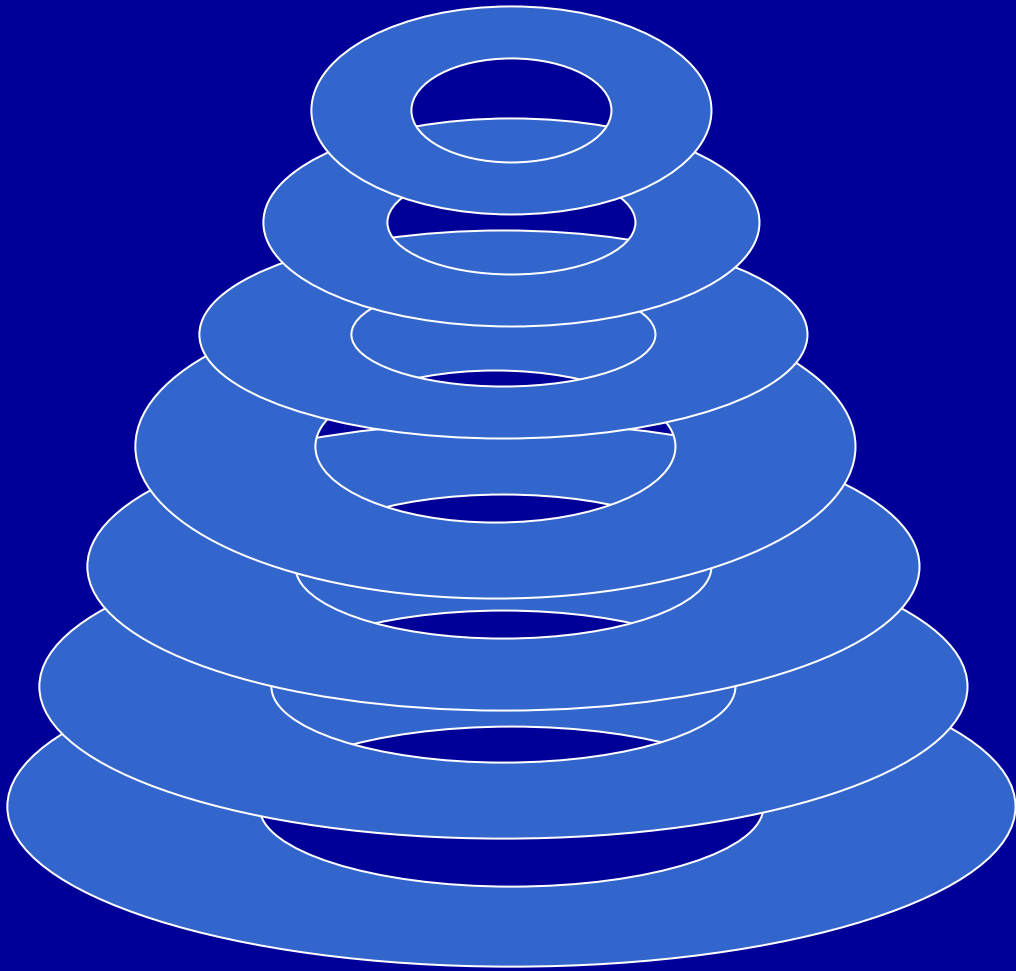
7 Terraces



Gluttons

Hungry and
unable to
eat/drink

7 Terraces



7 Terraces



Lust

The diagram shows a blue hill with seven horizontal terraces. A blue rectangular box with a black border is positioned at the top of the hill, containing the word 'Lust' in white text. The terraces are represented by blue rings of decreasing diameter from bottom to top, creating a conical shape.

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 bust of Dante is visible inside the arch. To the left, a flagpole with the Italian flag and the European Union flag is visible. The background shows green foliage.

**Dante's tomb in
Ravenna**



**Dante's tomb in
Ravenna**



**Dante's empty
tomb in
Florence**

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)