

CLASS FOUR  
DANTE'S INFERNO  
Cantos XVII -XXII  
MALBOLGE 1-5



SANDRO BOTTICELLI  
1495

# GERYON

## *Inferno XVII*

*ecco colei chi tutto 'l mondo appuzza!*

“Behold the beast that makes the whole world stink.”



William Blake  
1757-1827



Joseph Anton Koch  
Austrian  
1768-1869

*La faccia sue era faccia d'uom giusto,  
tango benign avea di fuor la pelle,  
e d' un serpente tutto l'altro fusto;*

“His face was innocent of every guile,  
benign and just in features and expression;  
and under it his body was half reptile.”



Jim Agpalza on X: “Dante and Virgil atop Geryon  
as they descend into the Circle of Fraud”

Usurers  
Canto XVII



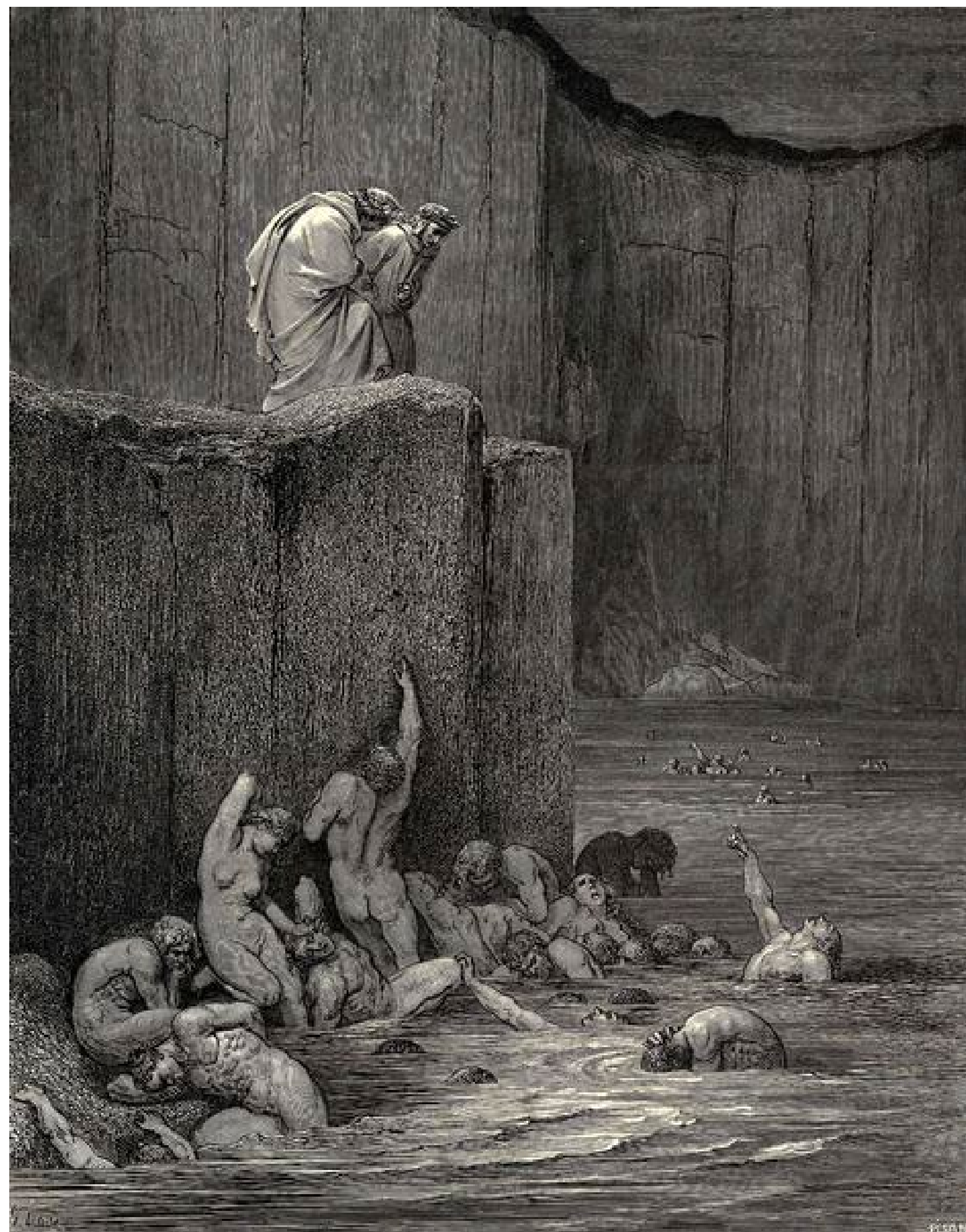
I examined several faces there among  
that sooty throng, and I saw none I knew;  
but I observed that from each neck there hung

an enormous purse, each marked with its own beast  
and its own colors like a coat of arms.  
On these their streaming eyes appeared to feast.

MALEBOLGE  
*Luogo é in inferno detto Malebolge*  
There is a place in Hell called Malebolge  
Canto XVIII, Bolgia 1

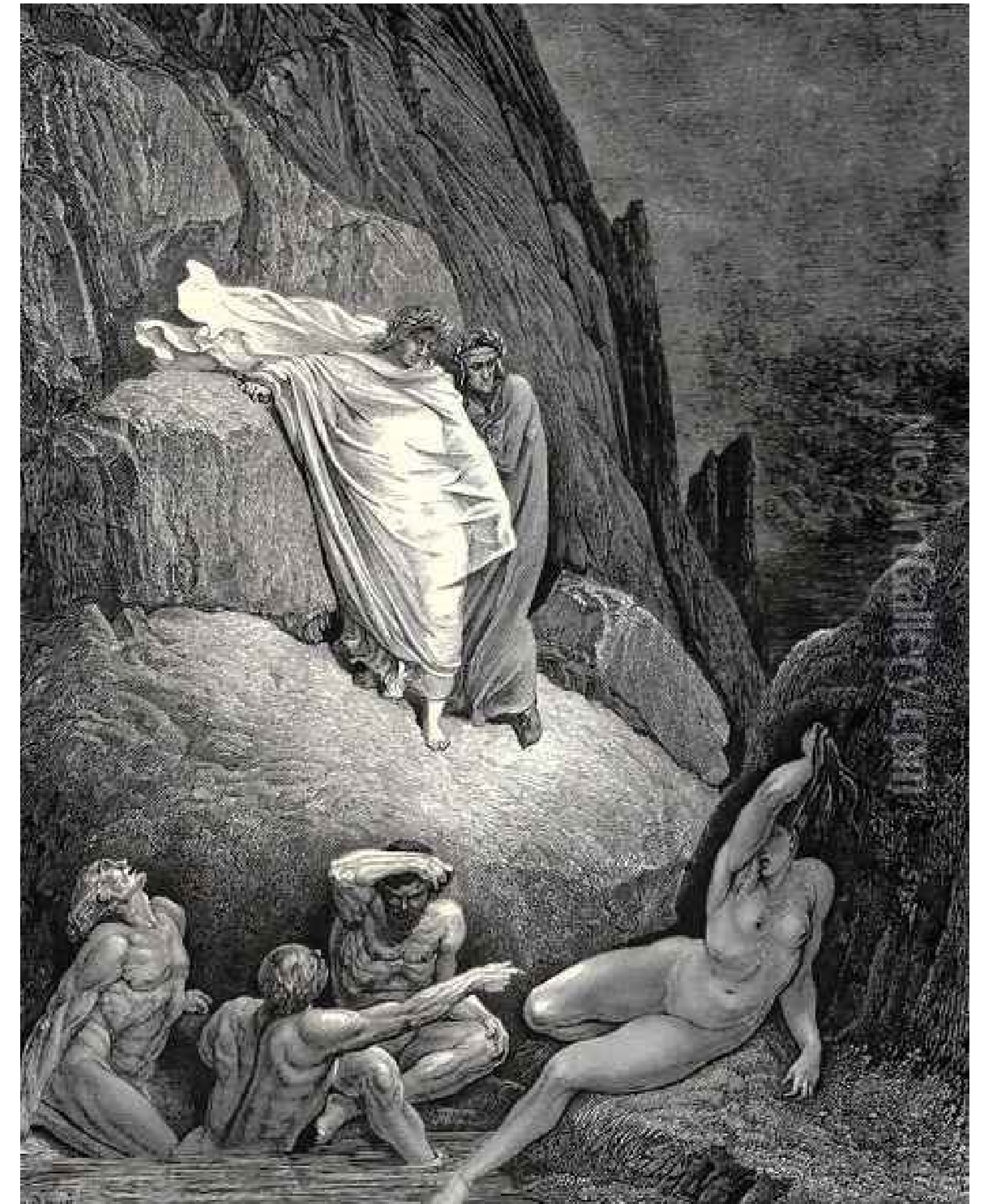


Sandro Botticelli  
1445-1510



Canto XVIII  
Bolgia 2  
Panderers, Seducers, Flatterers

Gustave Doré  
two versions



Once there I peered down; and I saw long lines  
of people in a river of excrement  
that seemed the overflow of the world's latrines.

It is the whore Thais who told her lover  
when he sent to ask her, "Do you thank me much?"

'Much? Nay, past all believing!' And with this  
let us turn from the sight of this abyss.

Blake:  
Canto XVIII, Bolgia 2  
Ditch of the Flatterers  
Alessio Interminei da Lucca and Thais



Aphrodite Anadyomenes  
Pompei, before 79 AD

SIMONIACS  
CANTO XIX



Doré

From every mouth a sinner's legs stuck out as far as the calf. The soles were all ablaze and the joints of the legs quivered and writhed about.



Blake


“Are you there already, Boniface? Are you there already” he cried. “By several years the writ has lied. And all that gold, and all that care—

are you already sated with the treasure for which you dared to turn on the Sweet Lady and trick and pluck and bleed her at your pleasure?”



*'Deh, or mi di: quanto tesoro volle  
Nostro Signore in prima da san Pietro  
ch'ei ponesse le chiavi in sun balia?*



SCOPRI DI PIÙ 

“Pray tell me now; how much treasure  
did our Lord require of Saint Peter  
before He gave the keys into his charge?”



Diviners and Soothsayers  
Canto XX



GIOVANNI STRADANO, CANTO XX, 1587



William Blake  
Tiresius, Manto, Amphiaraus, Aruns

## Barrators Canto XXI

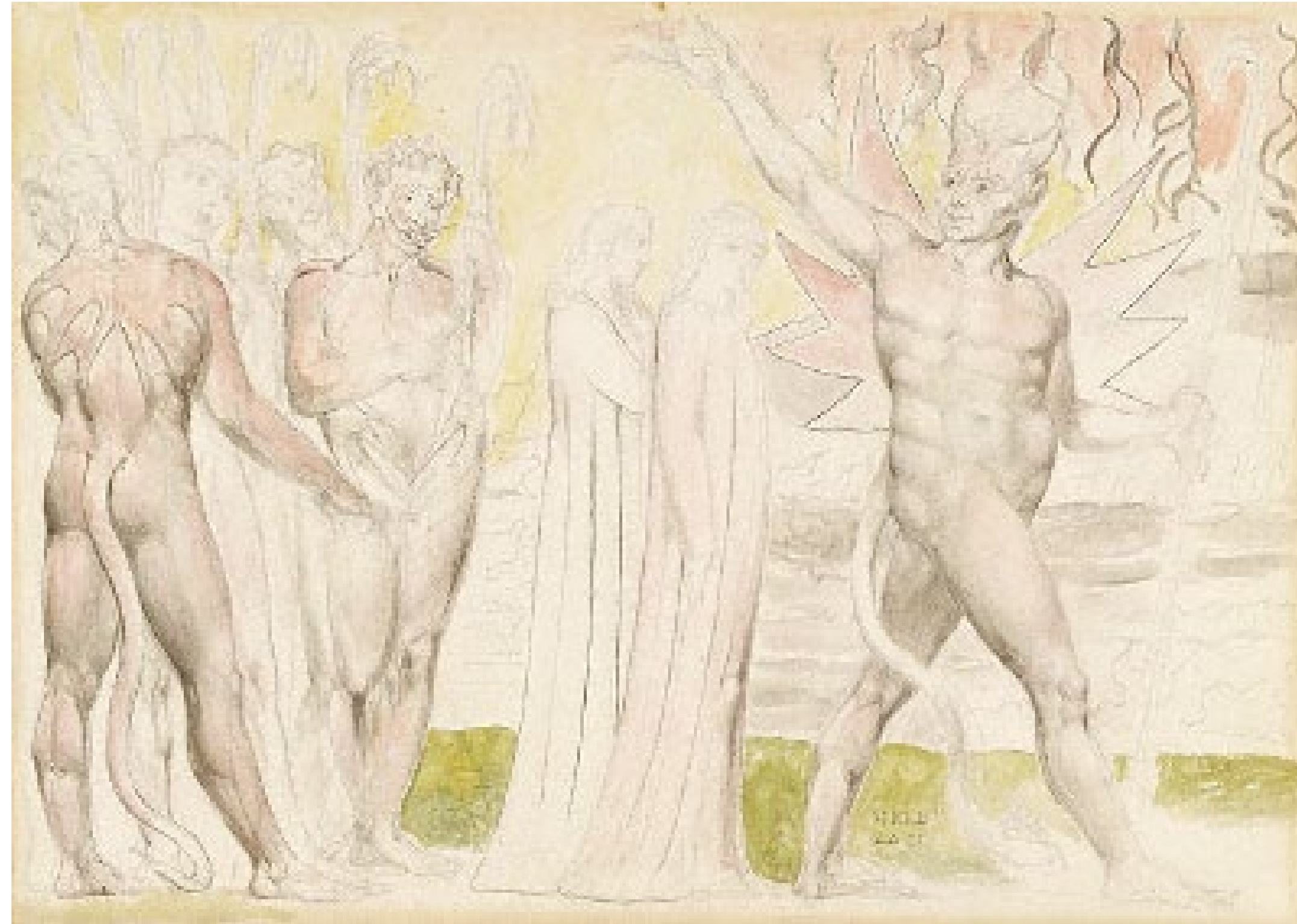


They dipped him down into that pitch exactly  
as a chef makes scullery boys dip meat in a boiler,  
holding it with their hooks from floating free.



And the Master said: "*You* had best not be seen  
by these Fiends till I am ready. Crouch down here.  
One of these rocks will serve you as a screen."

Blake  
Canto XXI



*ed eli avea del cul fatto trombetta*

They turned along the left bank in a line;  
but before they started, all of them together  
had stuck their pointed tongues out as a sign

to their Captain that they wished permission to pass  
and he had made a trumpet of his ass.

Devils  
Canto XXII



Blake, Ciampolo tormented by devils



Ciampolo escapes back into the pitch.



Blake, Quarreling Devils