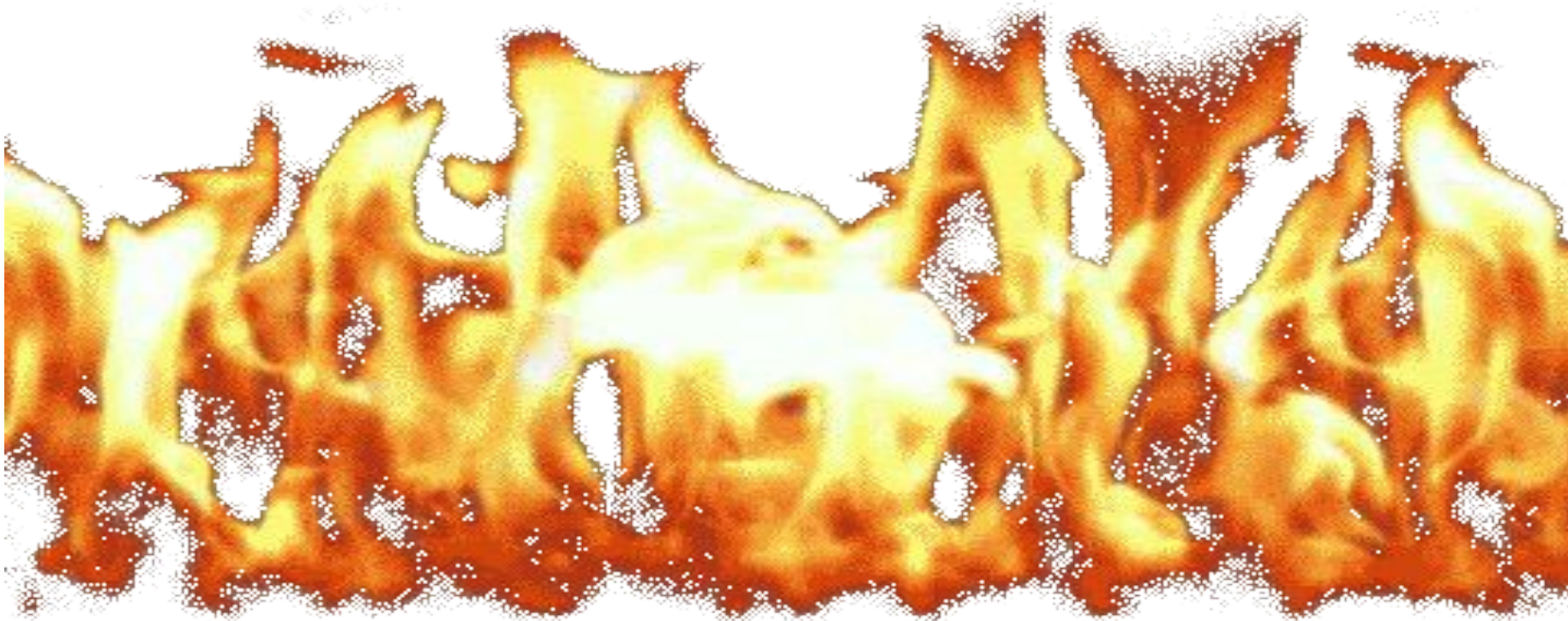


Circle 8: Bolgia 4





Circle 8 Bolgia 4

- Who are the sinners in Circle 8 Bolgia 4?
 - The Fortune Tellers
- What was their sin on earth?
 - They tried to predict the future by playing God
- What is their punishment?
 - They are slowly walking around the pit crying
 - Their bodies are distorted; their heads are turned backwards on their bodies
 - As they cry, their tears fall down onto their backsides—Yikes!



Circle 8 Bolgia 4

- What is the Law of Retribution here?
 - Just as these sinners tried to look too far into the future, they are now forbidden to see ahead of them
 - Their tears further cloud their eyesight
 - Just as they distorted God's plan for us, their bodies are now distorted

- What are some acts of fortune telling?
 - Astrology
 - Tarot cards
 - Palm reading
 - Tea leaves



Circle 8 Bolgia 4

- What does Dante do when he sees these sinners?
 - He starts to cry
- What act of tough fatherly love does Virgil display towards Dante?
 - He scolds him for feeling pity because Dante starts to cry
 - He doesn't want him to pity these sinners because they have gone against God and pretended to be God, which is a sin!

Journal #32

In Circle 8 Bolgia 4, Dante encounters the Fortune Tellers and Diviners. These people committed simple fraud by trying to foresee the future. In modern times, we see this similarly in astrology, and even in a stretch, in fiduciary marketing and advice given by financiers about futures and stocks. Compare and contrast these sinners in the text with contemporary versions and discuss if they commit the same type of sin, and if their sins are justified. Give examples of people in contemporary society who may also commit this type of fraud. *At least 3 pieces of evidence from the text; you may use the handout provided 2 full pages long.*



V. del. scul. e. inc.

Le tre in pancia appeso ad un derosa.
Del furo' degli, si che la mia storia.
Si dice ancora che ha degli altri, *scrittori?* Gio. XX. by G. B. B.

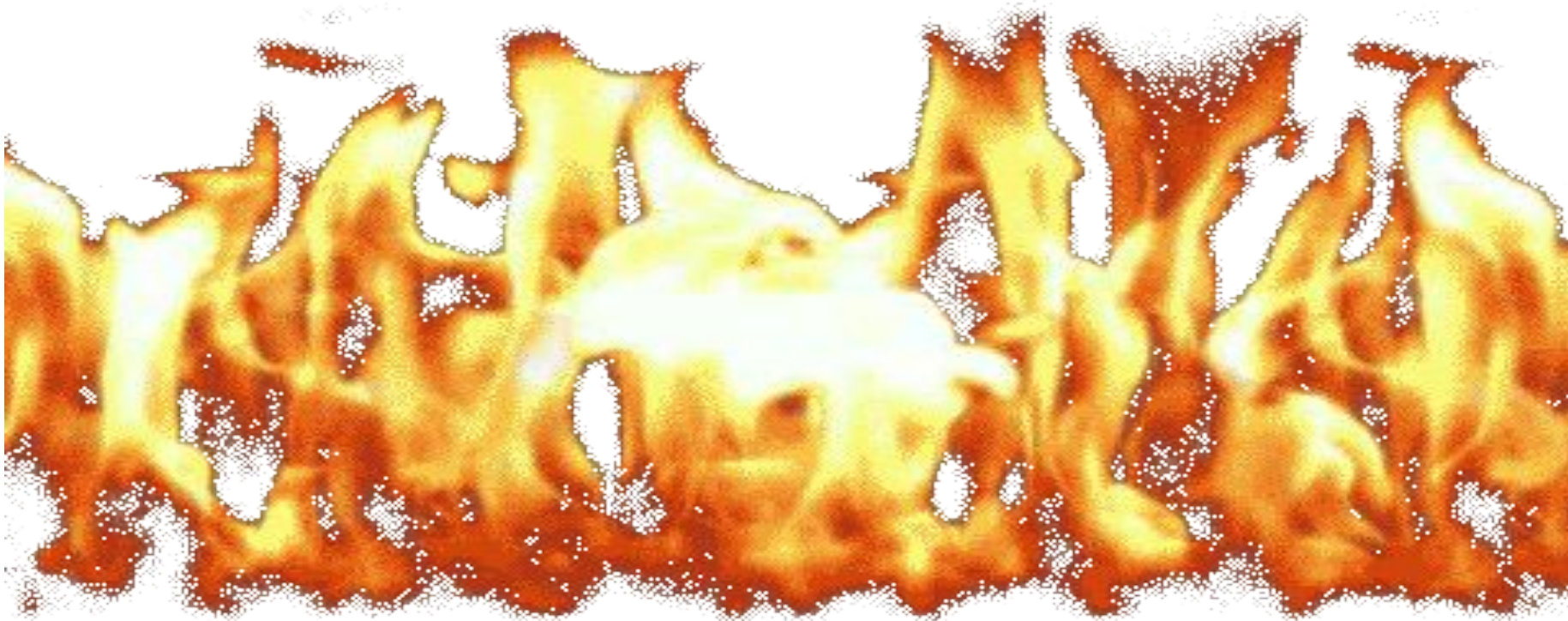
Roma 1871







Circle 8: Bolgia 5





What is Graft?

- What is graft?
 - Graft is a bribe, usually involving the giving or receiving of money. It can also include other mediums, like drugs or sexual favors.
- Who are the sinners in Circle 8 Bolgia 5?
 - The Grafters, or the Bribers



Circle 8 Bolgia 5

- What is the layout in this bolgia?
 - The sinners are in a pitch that is filled with black, boiling tar
- How does Virgil protect Dante here?
 - He tells him to “take care” and stay away from the edge of the pitch and he speaks to one of the demons in charge of this circle



Circle 8 Bolgia 5

- Who are the demons in charge of this bolgia?
 - The Malebranche (*evil claws*)
 - mal=bad (think: a malignant tumor is bad)
 - They try to catch sinners and torment them.
 - They sometimes are able to catch sinners because the sinners, to somewhat relieve their torment, will raise their backs out of the boiling pitch.
 - At that time, the devils are occasionally able to spear the sinner and lift the sinner out of the boiling pitch to be tormented up close and personal by the devils.



Circle 8 Bolgia 5

- What are some of the names of the demons here?
 - Malacoda means “evil tail”
 - Catclaw
 - Cramper
 - Crazyred
 - Curlybeard
 - Deaddog
 - Dragontooth
 - Grafter
 - Grizzly
 - Hellken
 - Pigtusk



Circle 8 Bolgia 5

- What is the punishment of the Grafters?
 - These sinners allowed themselves to be bribed.
 - Their punishment is to be submerged in boiling pitch and tormented by winged devils.
 - These winged guards attempt to capture any Grafter who is sticking his back out of the boiling pitch to ease his pain.
 - The guards use their pitchforks to fish the Grafter out of the boiling pitch, then torment the Grafter with their pitchforks.



Circle 8 Bolgia 5

What is the rationale for the punishment?

- The Grafters were sticky-fingered, and now they are sticky all over because of the boiling pitch (tar).
- The Grafters used their political and judicial offices to take bribes and make money. As these people manipulated and tormented other people during their lives, so the demons manipulate and torment the Grafters.



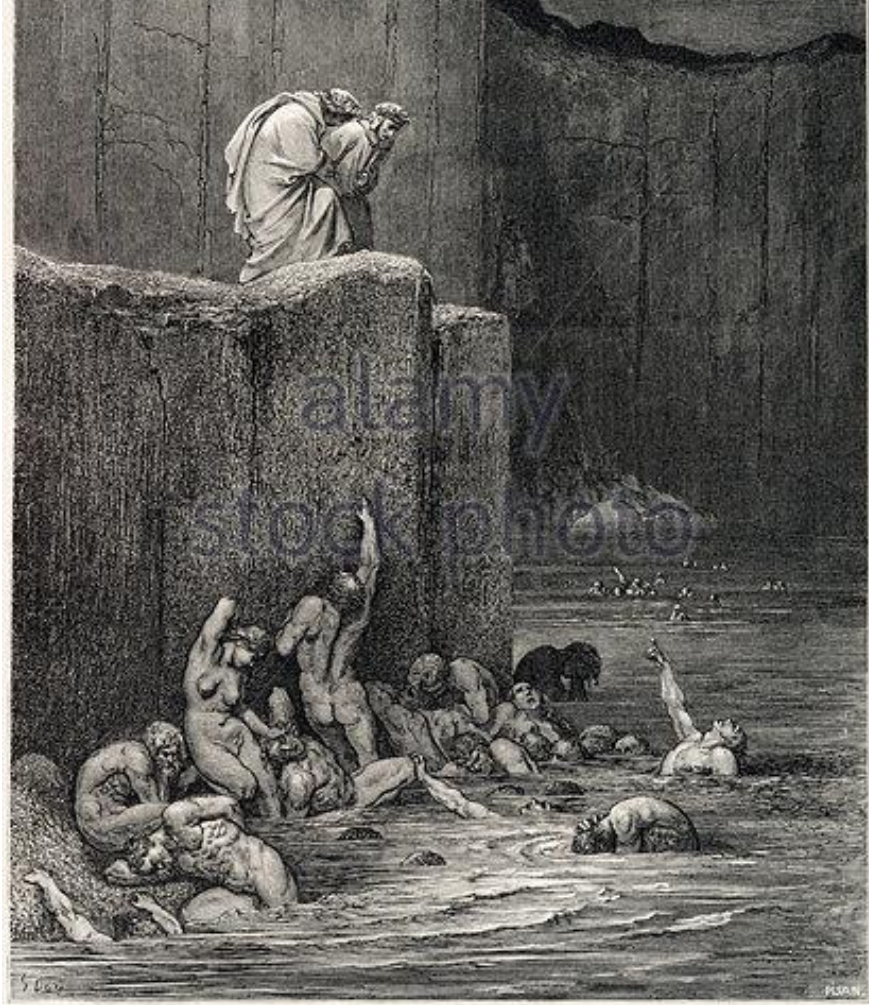
Circle 8 Bolgia 5

- What trick do the Grafters play on the demons?
 - The devils do capture a Grafter who has been raising his back out of the boiling pitch to ease his pain.
 - The Grafters work together to foil the devils.
 - They communicate to each other when the devils aren't looking and let each other know when it is safe to raise their backs out of the boiling pitch—an action that makes them look like frogs in water.
 - This is **SIMPLE FRAUD** at work!



Circle 8 Bolgia 5

- Where is the comedy here?
 - This bribe is not paid, however.
 - Ciampolo jumps back into the pitch and escapes the devils, who try to capture him but fail.
 - Of course, this illustrates the sin of simple fraud.



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Why does Dante spend so much time here in Bolgia 5?



One explanation of why Dante spends so much time in the canto explaining the surroundings is that he was falsely accused of graft, which led to his exile.

Describe the terrain here in Bolgia 5.

There are no bridges intact here since the earthquake that shook Hell during the Great Harrowing.

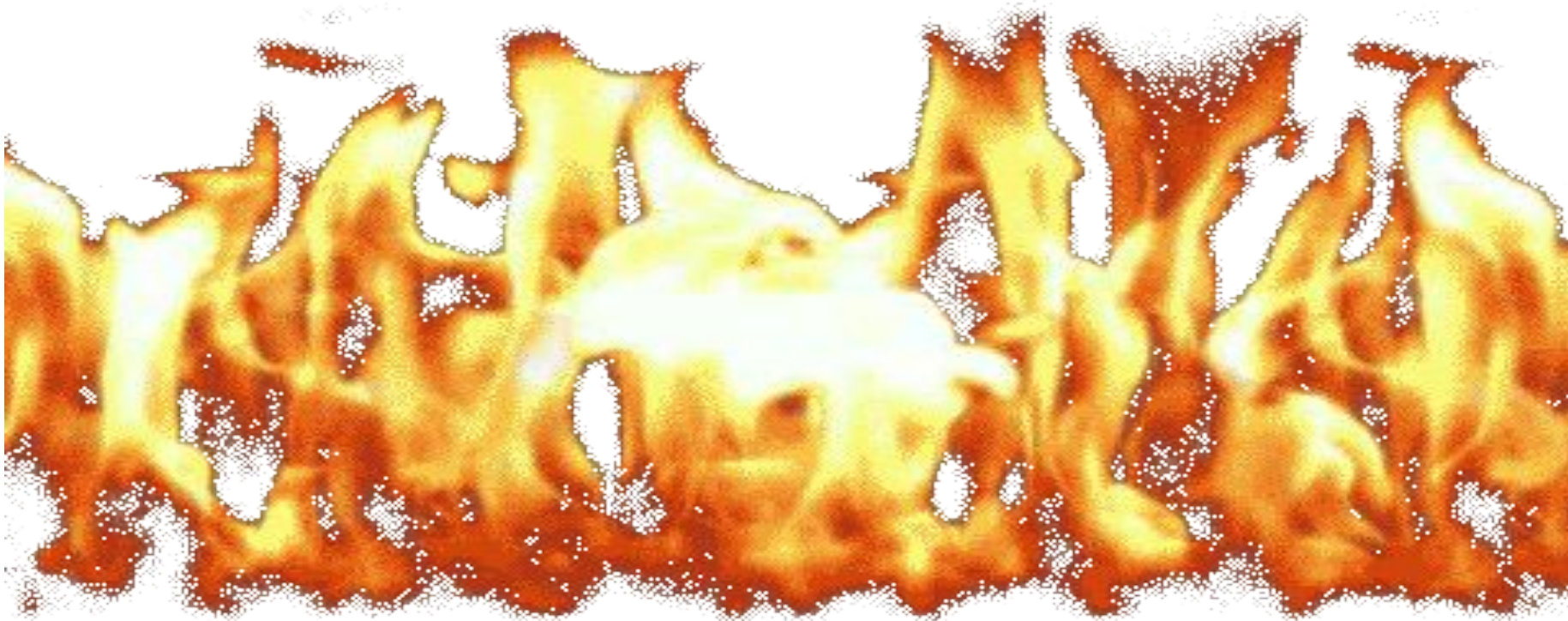
Who is Malacoda and who are the Malebranche?

Malacoda is the leader of the guard devils here. His name means *evil tail*.

The Malebranche are the devils who guard this bolgia. They also engage in graft while they are here. They try to catch sinners and torment them. Malebranche means *evil claws*.



Circle 8: Bolgia 6





Circle 8 Bolgia 6

- Who are the sinners in Circle 8 Bolgia 6?
 - The Hypocrites
- What is hypocrisy?
 - Hypocrisy is making a show of holding beliefs that you do not actually hold.
 - Examples
 - Politicians saying one thing, doing another
 - Christians acting in an unChristian way



Circle 8 Bolgia 6

- What is the punishment of the Hypocrites?
 - They walk slowly around in a circle wearing heavy, golden friar cloaks
 - The Hypocrites appeared golden on the outside although on the inside they were made of base metal, so for eternity they appropriately wear heavy cloaks that are gold on the outside but lead on the inside.



Circle 8 Bolgia 6

- Who are the Jovial Friars?
 - Dante meets two Jovial Friars in this part of the Inferno: the Guelf Catalano and the Ghibelline Loderingo.
 - They were brought into Florence to help keep the peace, but instead they took sides and increased the violence of Florence.
 - Florentines would not trust the other faction to keep the peace, so outsiders were sometimes brought in to keep the peace.
 - These two Jovial Friars pre-tended to be peacekeepers but actually fomented violence.



Circle 8 Bolgia 6

- Who is the main sinner in this bolgia?
 - Caiaphas
 - Caiaphas, the High Priest of the Jews, allowed Jesus to be crucified although he believed him to be innocent.
- How is Caiaphas punished?
 - Caiaphas is crucified on the ground with three stakes, and all the other Hypocrites (except those who are crucified on the ground like him) walk over him on their journey around the Circle.
 - Annas (Caiaphas' father-in-law), who delivered Jesus to Caiaphas, is also crucified on the ground, along with the other Jewish counselors who allowed Jesus to be crucified.

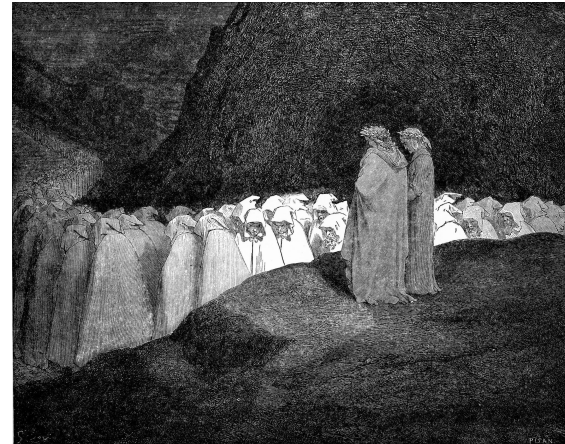


Circle 8 Bolgia 6

- In which way is the punishment given to Caiaphas and Annas and some council members fitting?
 - Caiaphas, the High Priest of the Jews, allowed Jesus to be crucified although he believed him to be innocent.
 - Caiaphas' father-in-law, Annas, delivered Jesus to Caiaphas for judgment.
 - Members of the council also thought it best that Jesus be crucified.
 - They are Hypocrites because they thought that Jesus was innocent yet allowed him to be crucified.
 - Thus, it is fitting both that they be crucified and that they bear the weight of the Hypocrites who walk on them.

The Hypocrites

Hypocrisy is making a show of holding beliefs that you do not actually hold. These are the only sinners who wear clothing. The heavy cloaks make them walk very slowly.



Caiaphas, the High Priest of the Sanhedrin, allowed Jesus to be crucified although he believed in his innocence, thus making him a hypocrite.

Main Sinners in Circle 8 Bolgia 6

Caiaphas and the other members of the Sanhedrin are punished in the same way here: crucified to the ground with 3 great stakes while the hypocrites walk slowly over them with their heavy robes.

