

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE	ix

PART I · INTRODUCTION 1

1. History of the Designs and Engravings.	3
2. Blake's Symbolism.	8
3. Blake and Dante.	30
4. Unity of Theme in the Designs.	35
5. Stylistic Considerations.	39

PART II · COMMENTARY ON THE INDIVIDUAL DRAWINGS 45

Inferno

1. Dante Running from the Three Beasts.	47
2. Dante and Virgil Penetrating the Forest.	50
3. The Mission of Virgil.	51
4. The Inscription over Hell-Gate.	53
5. The Vestibule of Hell, and the Souls Mustering to Cross the Acheron.	54
6. Charon and the Condemned Souls.	56
7. Homer, Bearing the Sword, and his Companions.	56
8. Homer and the Ancient Poets.	60
9. Minos.	61
10. The Circle of the Lustful: Francesca da Rimini.	63
10E. The Circle of the Lustful: Francesca da Rimini (engraving).	63
11. The Circle of the Gluttons with Cerberus.	66
12. Cerberus—first version.	66
13. Cerberus—second version.	68
14. Plutus.	68
15. The Stygian Lake, with the Ireful Sinners Fighting.	69
16. The Goddess of Fortune.	70
17. Dante and Virgil Crossing towards the City of Dis.	71
18. Virgil Repelling Filippo Argenti from the Boat.	73
19. The Angel Crossing Styx.	74
20. The Gorgon-Head and the Angel Opening the Gate of Dis.	75
21. Farinata degli Uberti.	76
22. The Minotaur.	77
23. The Centaurs and the River of Blood.	78
24. The Wood of the Self-Murderers: the Harpies and the Suicides.	79
25. The Hell-Hounds Hunting the Destroyers of Their Own Goods.	80
26. The Blasphemers.	81

CONTENTS

27. Capaneus the Blasphemer.	82
28. The Symbolic Figure of the Course of Human History Described by Virgil.	83
29. Jacopo Rusticucci and His Comrades.	84
30. The Usurers.	85
31. Geryon Conveying Dante and Virgil Downwards.	86
32. The Seducers Chased by Devils.	87
33. The Flatterers.	88
34. The Devils Under the Bridge.	89
35. The Simoniac Pope.	91
36. The Necromancers and Augurs.	92
37. The Devil Carrying the Lucchese Magistrate to the Boiling Pitch-Pool of Corrupt Officials.	93
38. Virgil Abashing the Devils.	93
39. The Devils Setting Out with Dante and Virgil.	94
40. The Devils, with Dante and Virgil, by the Side of the Pool.	94
41. Ciampolo Tormented by the Devils.	95
41E. Ciampolo Tormented by the Devils (engraving).	95
42. Baffled Devils Fighting.	96
42E. Baffled Devils Fighting (engraving).	96
43. Dante and Virgil Escaping from the Devils.	98
44. The Hypocrites with Caiaphas.	98
45. The Laborious Passage Along the Rocks—first version.	100
46. The Laborious Passage Along the Rocks—second version.	101
47. The Thieves and Serpents.	101
48. The Serpent Attacking Vanni Fucci.	104
49. Fucci "Making the Figs" Against God.	104
50. Cacus.	105
51. The Six-Footed Serpent Attacking Agnolo Brunelleschi.	107
51E. The Six-Footed Serpent Attacking Agnolo Brunelleschi (engraving).	107
52. Brunelleschi Half Transformed by the Serpent.	108
53. The Serpent Attacking Buoso Donati.	109
53E. The Serpent Attacking Buoso Donati (engraving).	109
54. Donati Transformed into a Serpent: Guercio Cavalcanti Retransformed from a Serpent to a Man.	110
55. Ulysses and Diomed Swathed in the Same Flame.	110
56. The Schismatics and Sowers of Discord.	112
57. The Schismatics and Sowers of Discord: Mosca de'Lamberti and Bertrand de Born.	113
58. The Pit of Disease: the Falsifiers.	115
58E. The Pit of Disease: the Falsifiers (engraving).	115
59. The Pit of Disease: Gianni Schicchi and Myrrha.	117
60. Primeval Giants Sunk in the Soil.	119
61. Nimrod.	120
62. Ephialtes and Two Other Titans.	122
63. Antaeus Setting Down Dante and Virgil.	124

CONTENTS

64. The Circle of Traitors: the Alberti Brothers.	125
65. The Circle of Traitors: Dante Striking Against Bocca degli Abati.	126
65E. The Circle of Traitors: Dante Striking Against Bocca degli Abati (engraving).	126
66. Dante Tugging at Bocca's Hair.	128
67. Ugolino Relating His Death.	129
68. Ugolino in Prison.	131
69. Lucifer.	134

Purgatorio

70. Dante and Virgil again Beholding the Sun as They Issue from Hell.	137
71. Dante, Virgil, and Cato.	138
72. The Angelic Boat Wafting Over the Souls for Purgation.	139
73. The Mountain Leading to Purgatory.	141
74. Dante and Virgil Ascending the Mountain of Purgatory.	142
75. The Souls of Those Who Only Repented at the Point of Death.	143
76. The Lawn with the Kings and Angels.	145
77. Lucia Carrying Dante in His Sleep.	146
78. Dante and Virgil Approaching the Angel Who Guards the Entrance of Purgatory.	148
79. The Angel Marking Dante with the Sevenfold "P"	150
80. The Rock Sculptured with the Recovery of the Ark and the Annunciation.	150
81. The Proud Under Their Enormous Loads.	153
82. The Angel Descending at the Close of the Circle of the Proud.	155
83. The Souls of the Envious.	156
84. The Angel Inviting Dante to Enter the Fire.	157
85. Dante at the Moment of Entering the Fire.	158
86. Dante and Statius Sleeping, Virgil Watching.	159
87. Beatrice on the Car, Dante and Matilda.	161
88. Beatrice Addressing Dante from the Car.	164
89. The Harlot and the Giant.	171

Paradiso

90. Dante Adoring Christ.	175
91. A Design of Circular Stairs.	178
92. The Recording Angel.	179
93. Beatrice and Dante in Gemini Amid the Spheres of Flame.	181
94. St. Peter, Beatrice, and Dante.	182
95. St. Peter, Beatrice, Dante with St. James Also.	183
96. St. Peter, St. James, Dante, Beatrice with St. John the Evangelist Also.	184
97. The Deity, from Whom Proceed the Nine Spheres.	186
98. Dante in the Empyrean, Drinking at the River of Light.	189
99. The Queen of Heaven in Glory.	193

Additional Drawings

100. Male Figure Reclining.	197
101. Diagram of Hell-Circles.	198
102. Female Figures Attacked by Serpents.	200
APPENDIX A. Comparative pagination of different editions of <i>Poetry and Prose of William Blake</i> (ed. Geoffrey Keynes)	203
APPENDIX B. Present location of the drawings	204
APPENDIX C. Exhibitions of the Dante Illustrations	204
BIBLIOGRAPHY	205
INDEX	211