

### CANTO XVIII

We now had come to the intersection  
of the narrow path and second embankment,  
which forms the abutment for another arch. 102  
From there we heard the sound of people moaning  
in the next ditch, snorting through their snouts,  
and the slap of their palms against their own skin. 105  
The banks were caked and crusted with mold  
from the vapor below that condensed on them  
and launched an assault on the eyes and the nose. 108  
The murk at the bottom remained impenetrable  
until we climbed to the hump of the arch,  
where the ridge rises to its highest point. 111  
When we got there I saw down in the ditch  
people plunged into some kind of muck  
like human waste in an endless latrine. 114

Searching the scene, I saw one whose head  
was so slimed with shit that you could not tell  
whether he was a cleric or laity. 117  
He bawled at me: "Why turn your hungry gaze  
on me, more than these other shitheads?"  
I answered: "Because, if I remember right, 120  
I have seen you before—when your hair was dry—  
and you are Alessio Interminei of Lucca.  
And so more than the rest you've caught my eye." 123  
And he answered me as he pummeled that mop,  
"My tongue never tired of laying on thick  
the flatteries that have sunk me down in this slop." 126  
Then my leader said: "Move your gaze to a space  
that lies a bit farther in that direction 129  
so that your eyes may admire the face

Of that miserable disheveled slut  
scratching herself with her shit-encrusted nails. 132  
She will sometimes stand and sometimes squat.  
That, you should know, is Thais the whore, who,  
when her lover asked her, 'Do you hold me dear?'  
answered, 'More than dear. No, I adore you!' 135  
And that is all that we need to see over here."

Write a thesis defining how Dante uses poetic elements to characterize the flatterers and/or their punishment.

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Part Ph | Dep Cl | Ind Cl | Ab Ph

### CANTO XIX

I do not know whether I went too far  
when I answered him, without missing a beat,  
"Tell me then, just how much treasure 90  
Did our Lord require of Saint Peter  
before he entrusted him with a Key?  
He asked nothing, surely, except 'Follow me.' 93  
Nor did Peter, or any apostle you will,  
take gold from Matthias when he was chosen to fill  
the place that was lost when the Guilty Soul fell. 96  
So stay right here, for you are punished well,  
and guard the ill-gotten gains that prompted you  
to pit yourself against Charles of Anjou. 99  
And if I were not restrained by my reverence  
for the Great Keys, the Keys that you once  
held and turned in the life of ease, 102  
I would use even harsher words than these,  
for the greed you enjoyed makes the whole world sad,  
trampling the good and exalting the bad. 105  
The Evangelist John saw shepherds like you  
in the woman who sprawls on the water's blue  
and whores herself out to the kings of the Earth, 108  
The woman who had seven heads at birth  
and whose power derived from the ten horns she had  
(as long as virtue made her bridegroom glad). 111  
You have made a god of gold and silver,  
and how are you different from an idolater,  
except that you pray to a hundred and he to one? 114  
Ah, Constantine, it was not your conversion  
but your Donation, the dowry that first  
made a pope rich—Oh, what shameful evil it nursed!" 117

Write a thesis defining how Dante uses poetic elements to convey his thoughts on the simonists. Arrive at THEME in your Part Ph.

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Ab Ph | Ind Cl | Ind Cl | Part Ph

### CANTO XX

Of course I wept, leaning on one of the stones  
of the hard crag, so that my escort  
said to me, "Are you still one of the fools? 27  
Pity survives here where pity is dead.  
Can anyone be more impious  
than one who grieves at the judgment of God? 30  
Raise your head—raise it!—and see the man  
whom the gaping Earth took before the Thebans' eyes,  
at which they all cried, 'What's the big rush, 33  
Amphiaras? Why leave the war now?'  
But he did not stop, and plunged all the way down  
headlong to Minos, who seizes each soul. 36  
See how he has made a breast of his back.  
Because he wanted to see too far ahead  
he faces behind and walks backward too. 39  
See Tiresias, who was transmuted  
from male to female, assuming the form  
of a woman's body in every detail; 42  
And afterward he had to strike with his staff  
the two entwined serpents a second time  
before he could resume his masculine form. 45  
That one whose back faces Tiresias' belly  
is Arruns, who among the hills of Luni,  
where Carrara's peasants scratch out a living, 48  
Lived in a cave among the white marbles  
from which his view could roam unobstructed  
through the starry heavens and across to the sea. 51  
And the woman there who with her loose tresses  
shrouds her breasts away from your eyes  
and whose pubic hair too is on the wrong side, 54  
Was Manto, who searched through many lands  
and finally settled in the place I was born.  
Please hear me a little on this subject. 57  
The population there was larger once,  
before Casalodi in his folly  
was tricked by the treacherous Pinamonte. 96  
So be advised: should you ever hear  
any other account of my city's origin,  
let no fabrication shortchange the truth." 99

Write a thesis defining how Virgil uses poetic elements to react to Dante's sympathy for the soothsayers. Arrive at THEME in your 2<sup>nd</sup> Ind Cl.

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