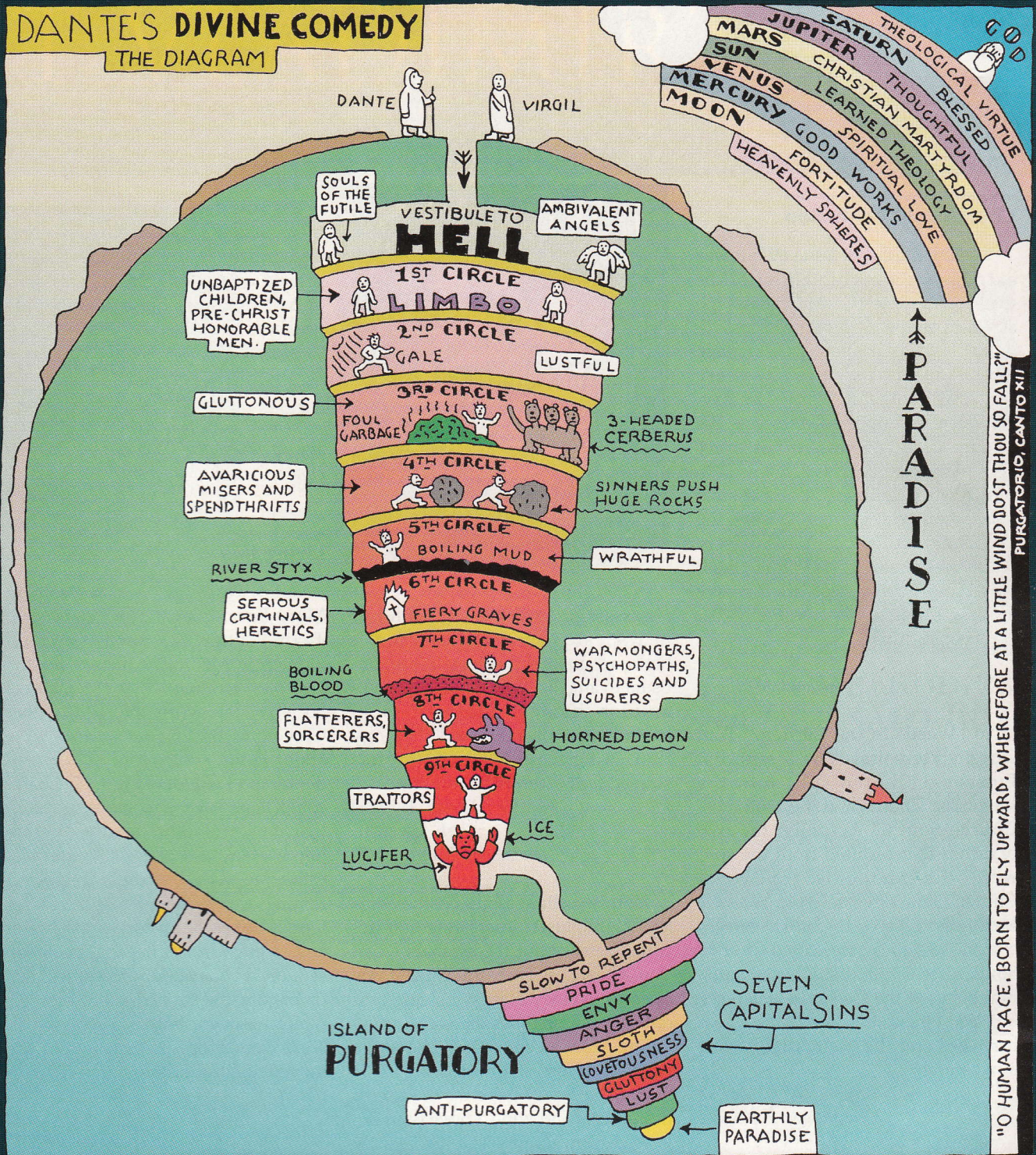


DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY

THE DIAGRAM



Funny papers? A cartoon map may seem an odd way to illustrate the world of Dante's masterwork, but it is no more shocking than Dante's original. Dante called his poem *Commedia* (*Divina* was added later) because in his day the word described a work that was, if not exactly funny, simple and happily ending. Also Dante wrote not in Latin, the language of high art, but in everyday Italian, and he described people and events that were as familiar to his readers as the evening news is today. These artistic choices scandalized some of Dante's peers but also ensured his work's enduring appeal.