



William Blake *The Book of Urizen* London, ca. 1818 **Octavo** VIEW 1 of 35

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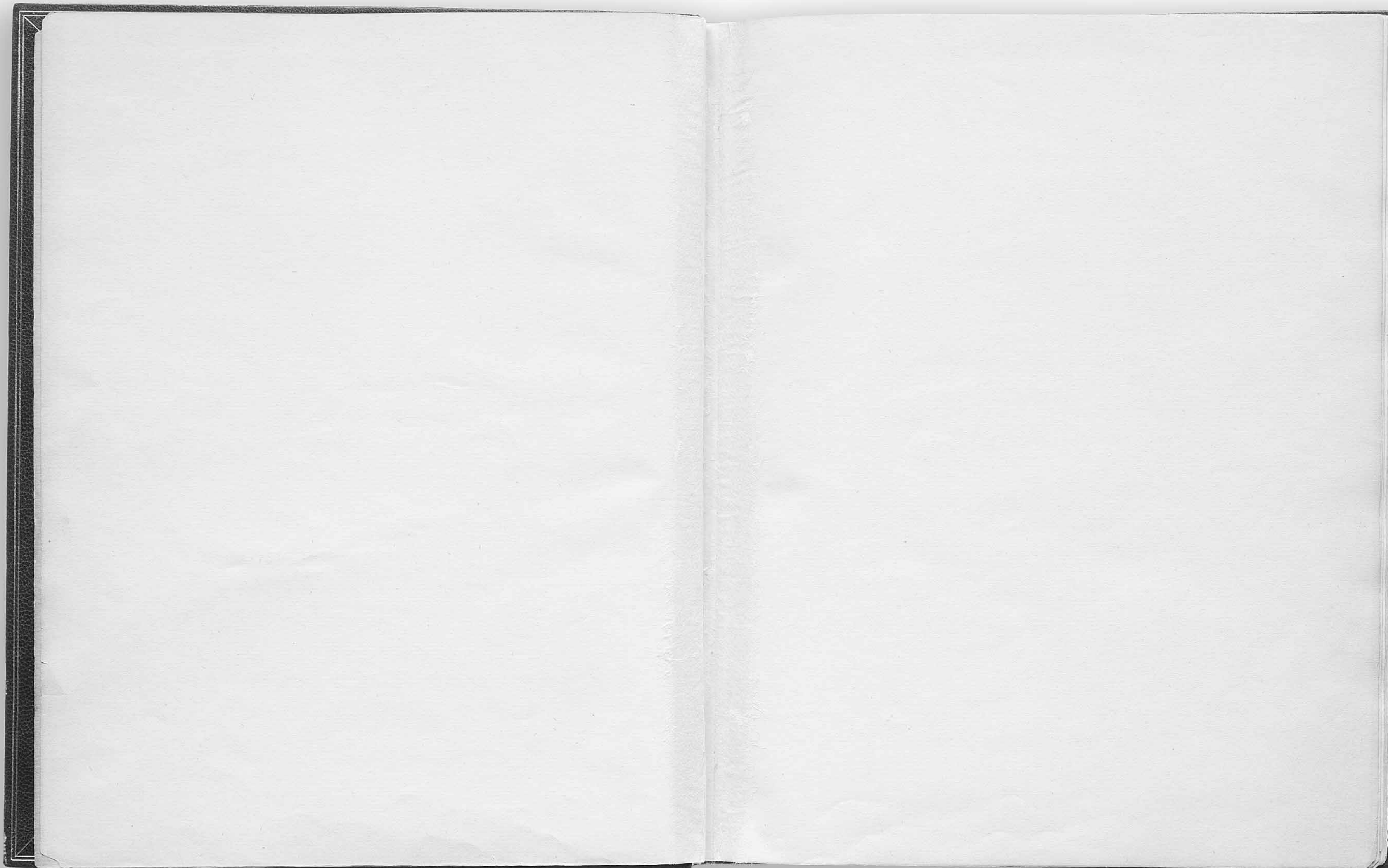
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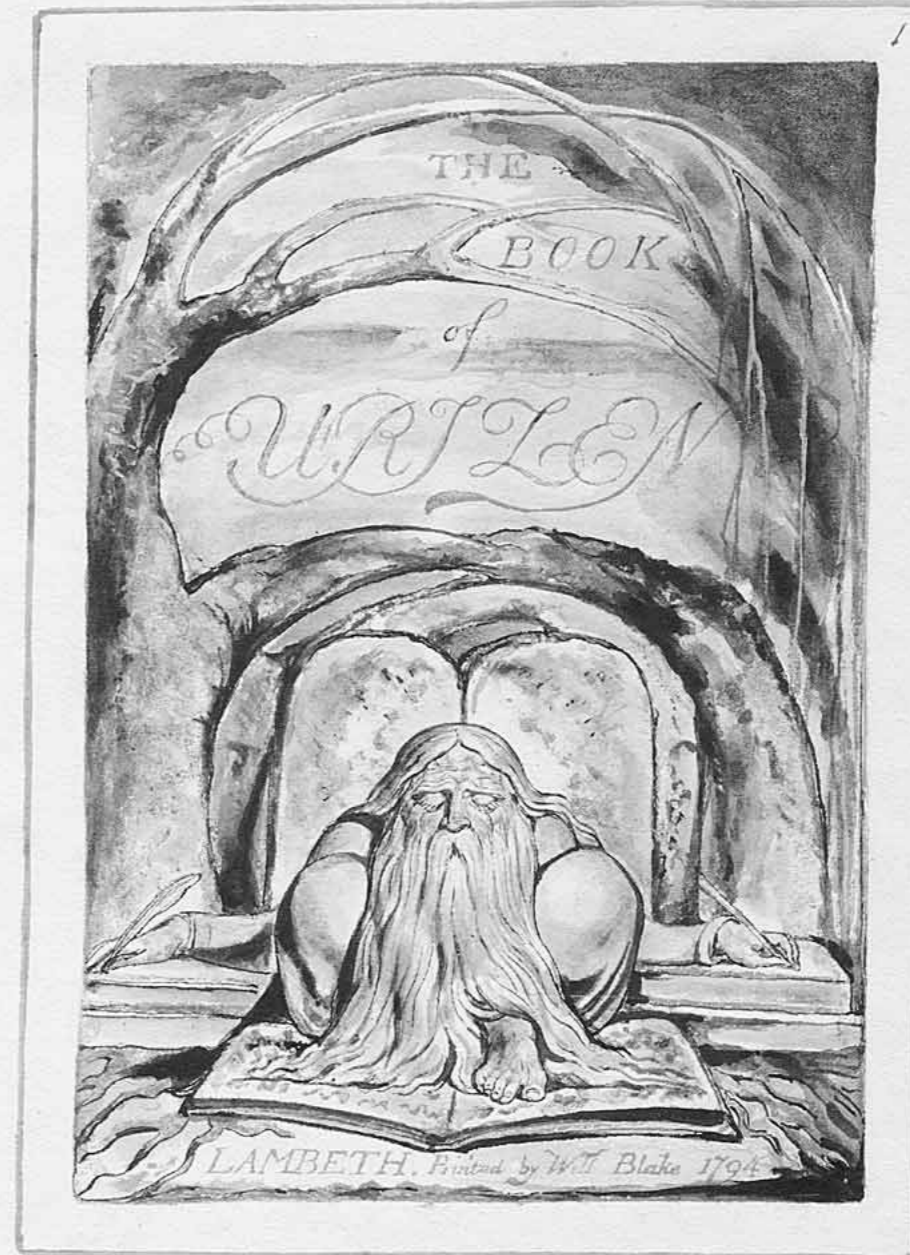
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W. Blake  
Apr 20 1908



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Chap: I

1. Lo, a shadow of horror is risen  
In Eternity! unknown, unprophetic?  
Self-clos'd, all-repelling, what Demon  
Hath form'd this abominable soul?

2. Thus said, in a vision? Some  
Le is arisen. But unknown, unprophetic?  
In his dark, unprophetic, what Demon  
Hath form'd this abominable soul?

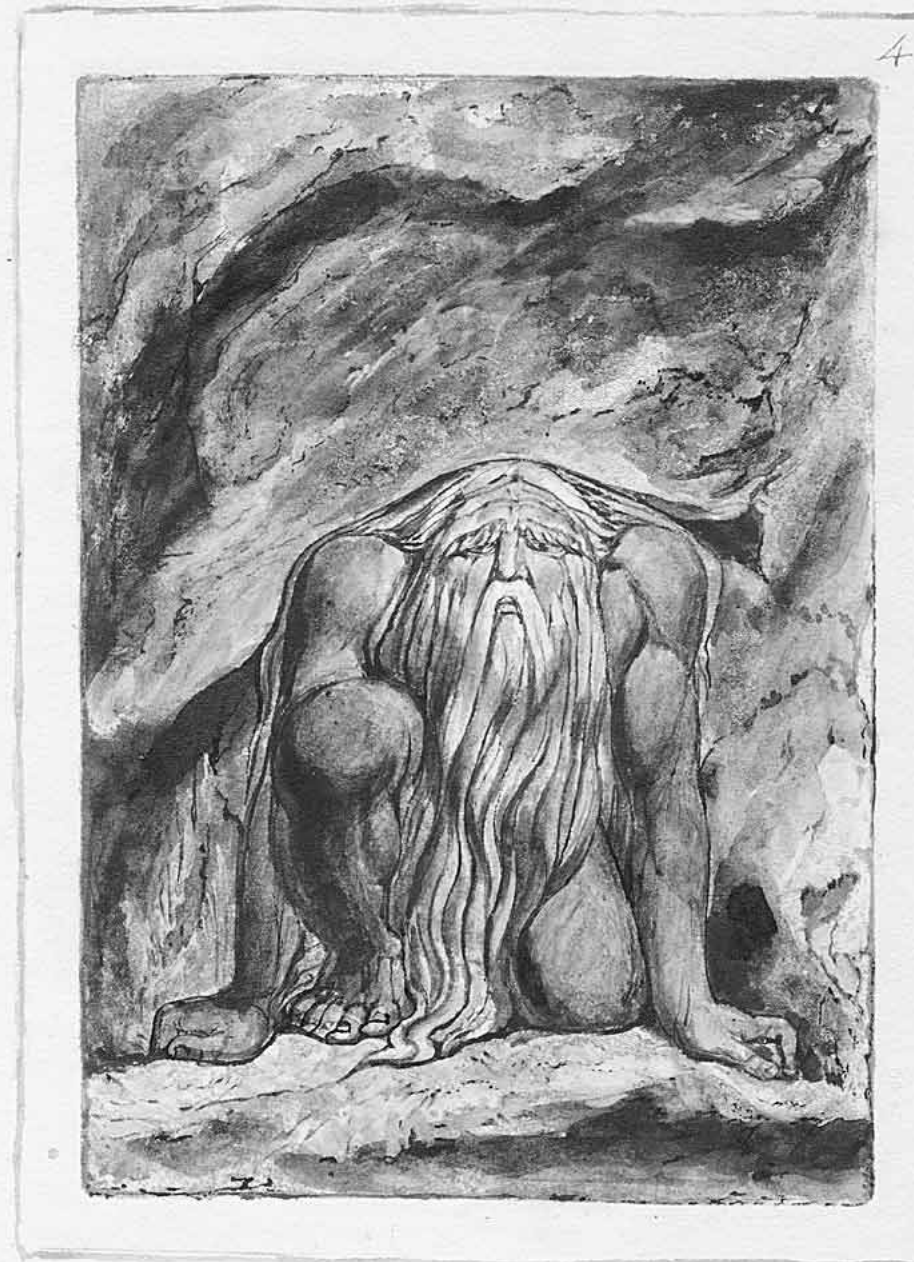
3. In his dark, unprophetic, what Demon  
Hath form'd this abominable soul?

Chap: II

1. Earth was not: nor glazes of air  
The will of the Immortal expanded.  
Or contracted his all flexible senses.  
Death was not, but eternal life sprung

2. The sound of a trumpet the heaven  
Spoke & vast clouds of blood rolled  
Round the dim rocks of Urizen, in vain  
That solitary and in loneliness

3. In his dark, unprophetic, what Demon  
Hath form'd this abominable soul?

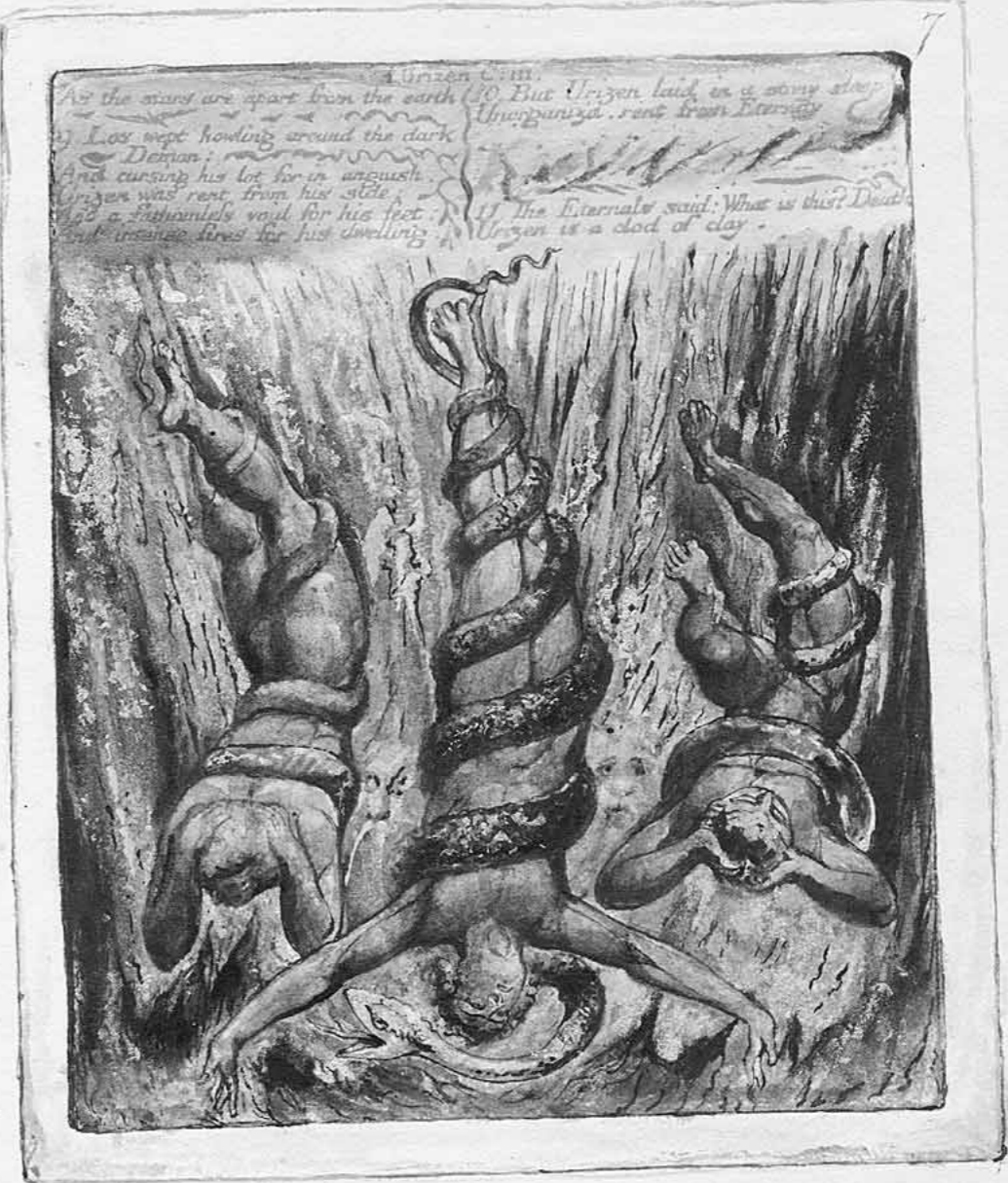


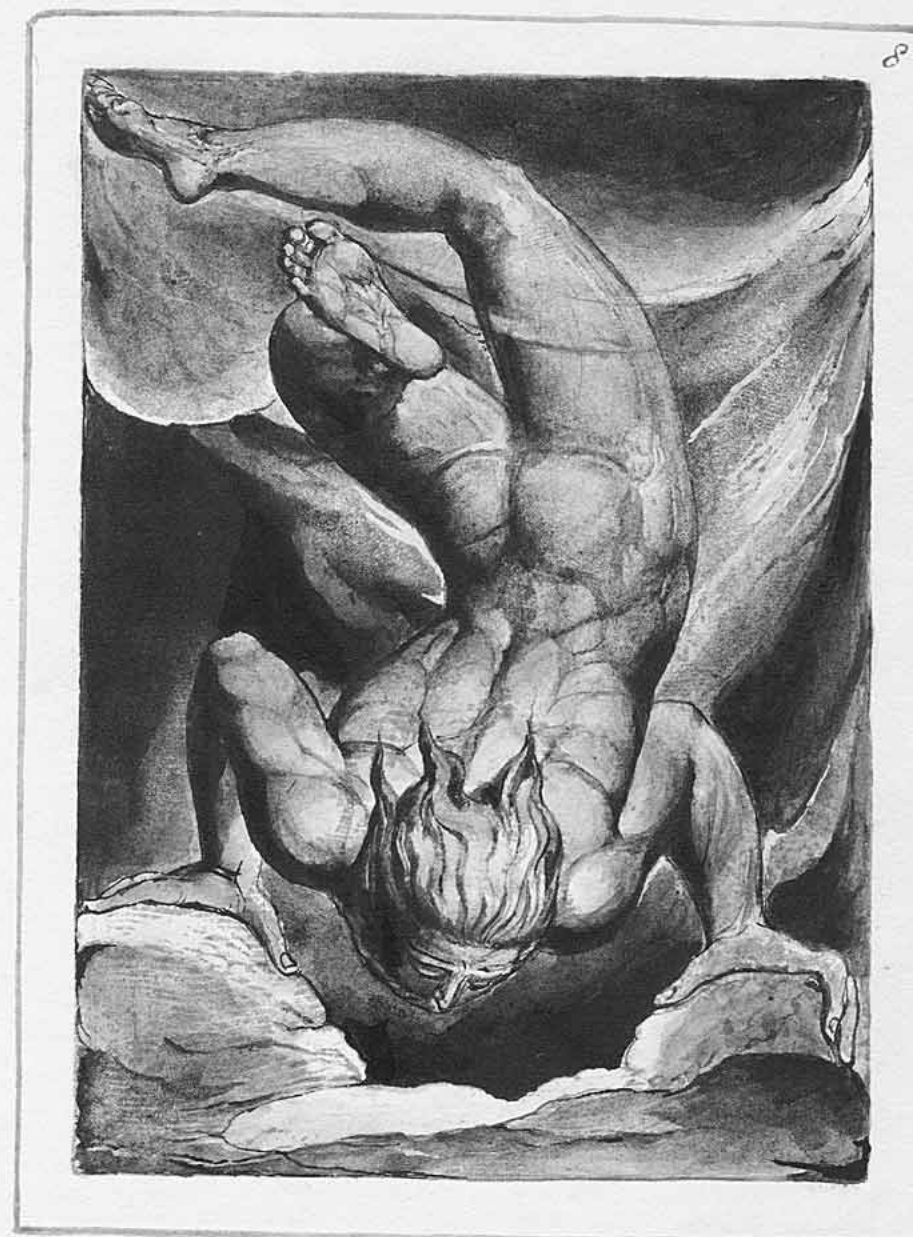


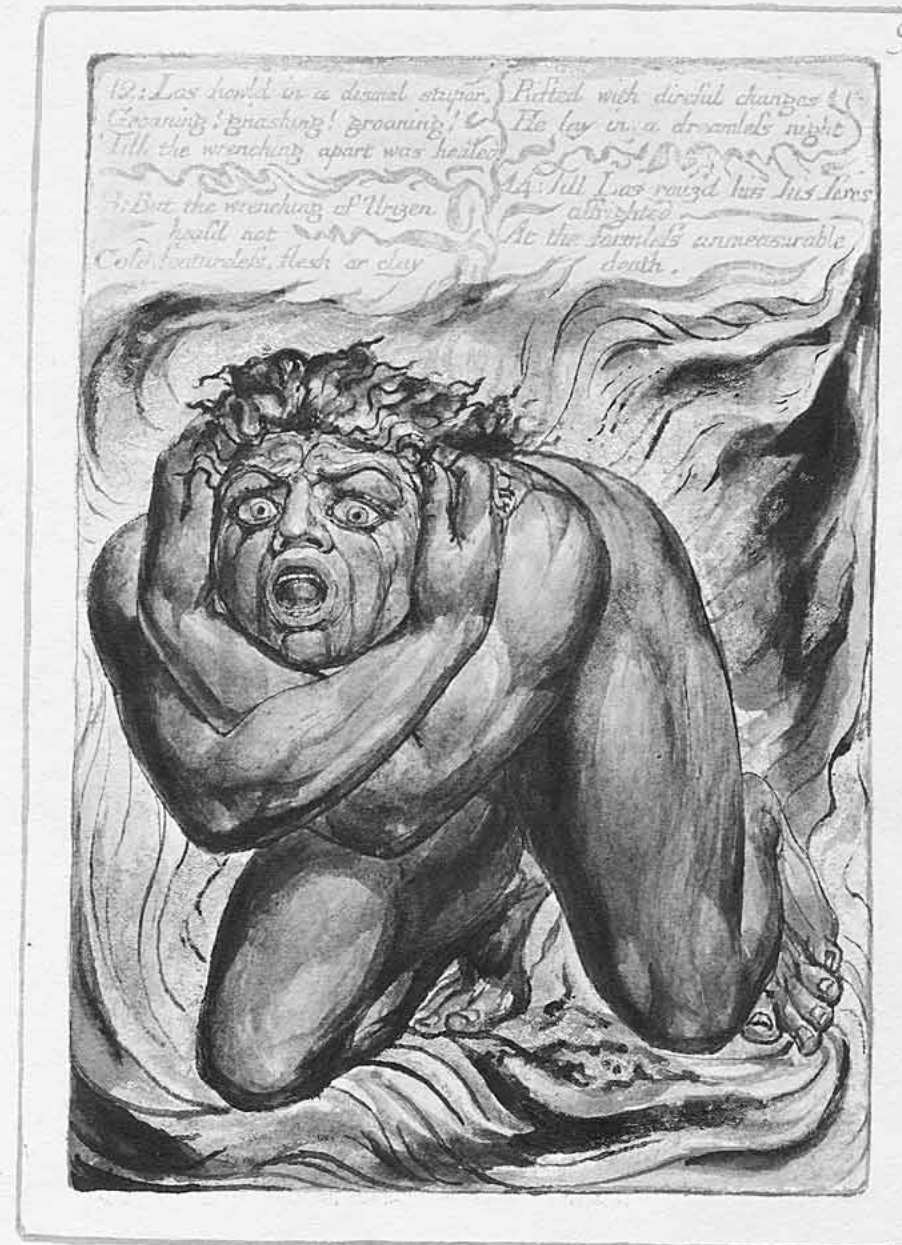


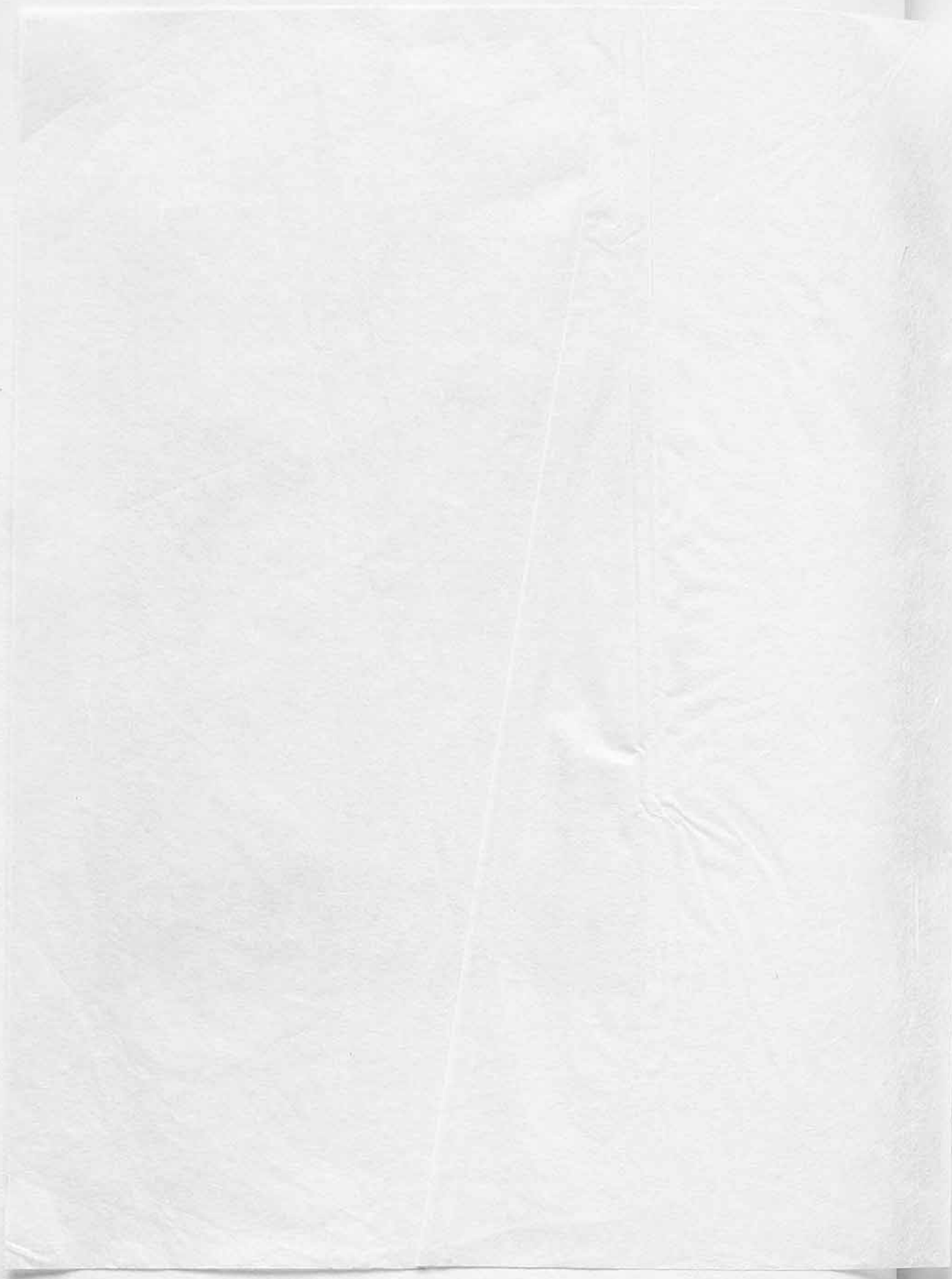
In windy creations appeared  
In the flames of eternal fire.  
3. Sundering, darkening, thundering,  
Rent away with a terrible crash  
Eternity rolled wide apart  
Wild asunder rolling  
Mountains all around  
Departing; departing; departing;  
Leaving ruinous fragments of life  
Hanging from cliffs & all beams  
In ocean of vapours undimable  
4. The roaring fires ran over the heaves  
In whirlwinds & currents of blood  
Fled over the dark deserts of Urizen  
Fires ran thro' the wild on all sides  
On Urizens self-begotten armies  
5. But no light from the fires, all was  
darkness  
In the flames of Eternal fire  
6. In fierce anguish to quench'd  
flames  
To the deserts and rocks he roll'd  
To hide, but he could not combine  
No, dur mountains & hills in vast strength  
He led them in incessant labour,  
In howlings & pangs & fierce madnels  
Long periods in burning hose labour  
Till hear, and eye-broke, and aod  
In despair and the students of death  
7. And a vast vast pit-like ground  
On all sides he found; like a vault  
Where thousands of eyes in vain  
Of blood pour down the mountains to cool  
The eternal fires, beating without  
From Eternals; & like a black globe  
Fixed by stars of Eternity, standing  
On the shore of the infinite ocean  
Like a human heart, struggling & beating  
The vast world of Urizen appeared  
8. And Loos round the dark globe of  
Urizen  
Kept watch for Eternals to cease,  
The obscure separation alone;  
For Eternity stood wide apart











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Chap: IV: -ment

1: Lias smitten with astonish-  
ment at the hurling bones

2: And at the surging sulphur  
-ous

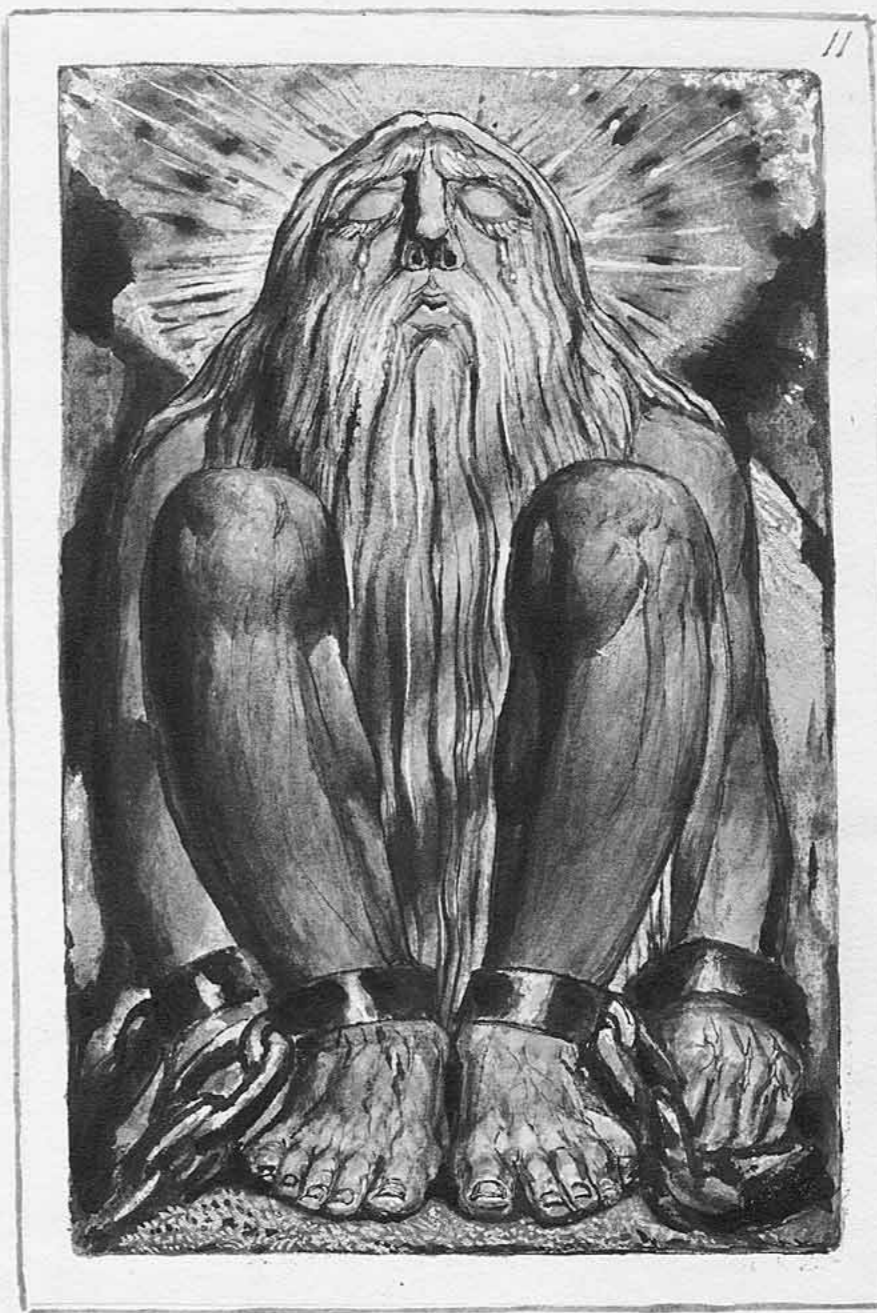
3: Perturbed Immortal mad raging  
In whirlwinds & pitch & nitre  
Round the furious links of Lias

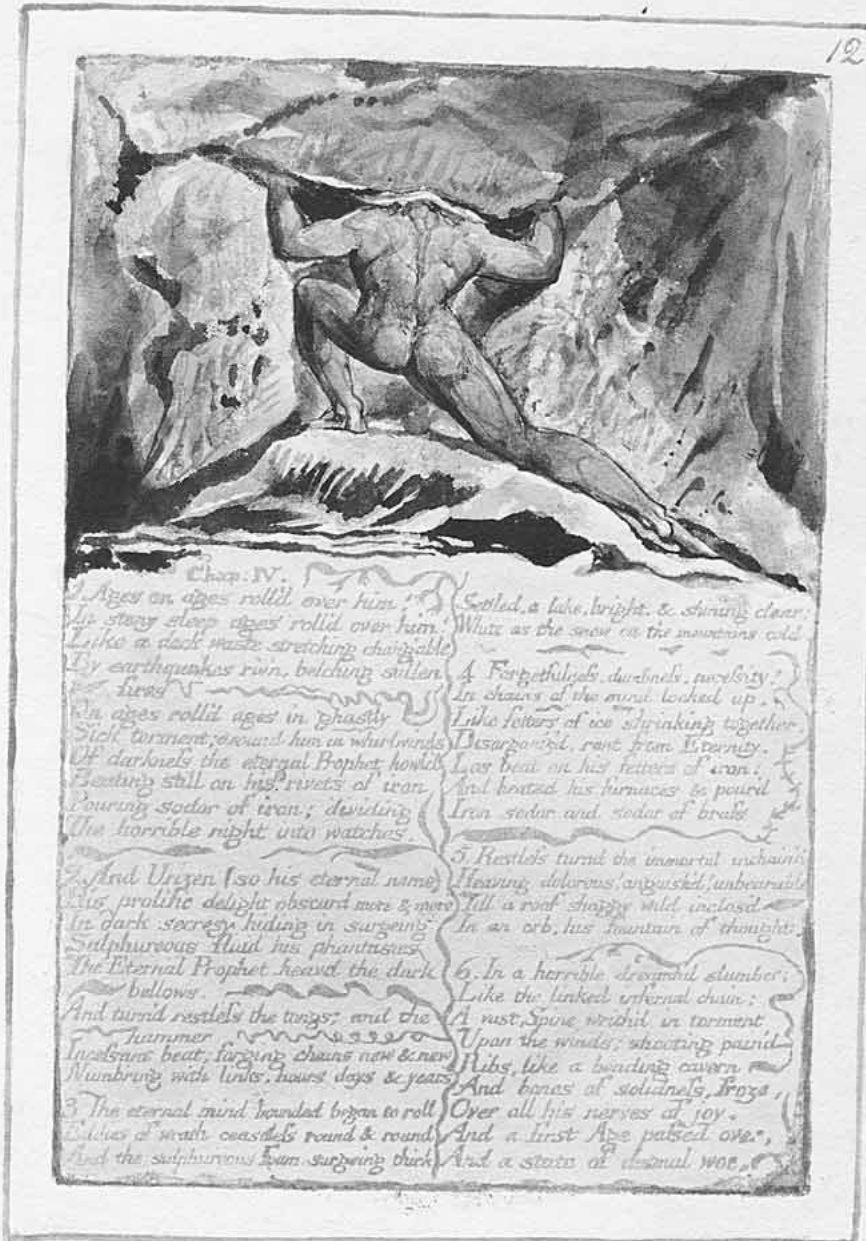
4: And Lias firmed nets & gins  
And threw the nets round about

5: He watch'd in shuddring fear  
The dark changes & howl every  
change so

6: And these were the changes  
of Urizen

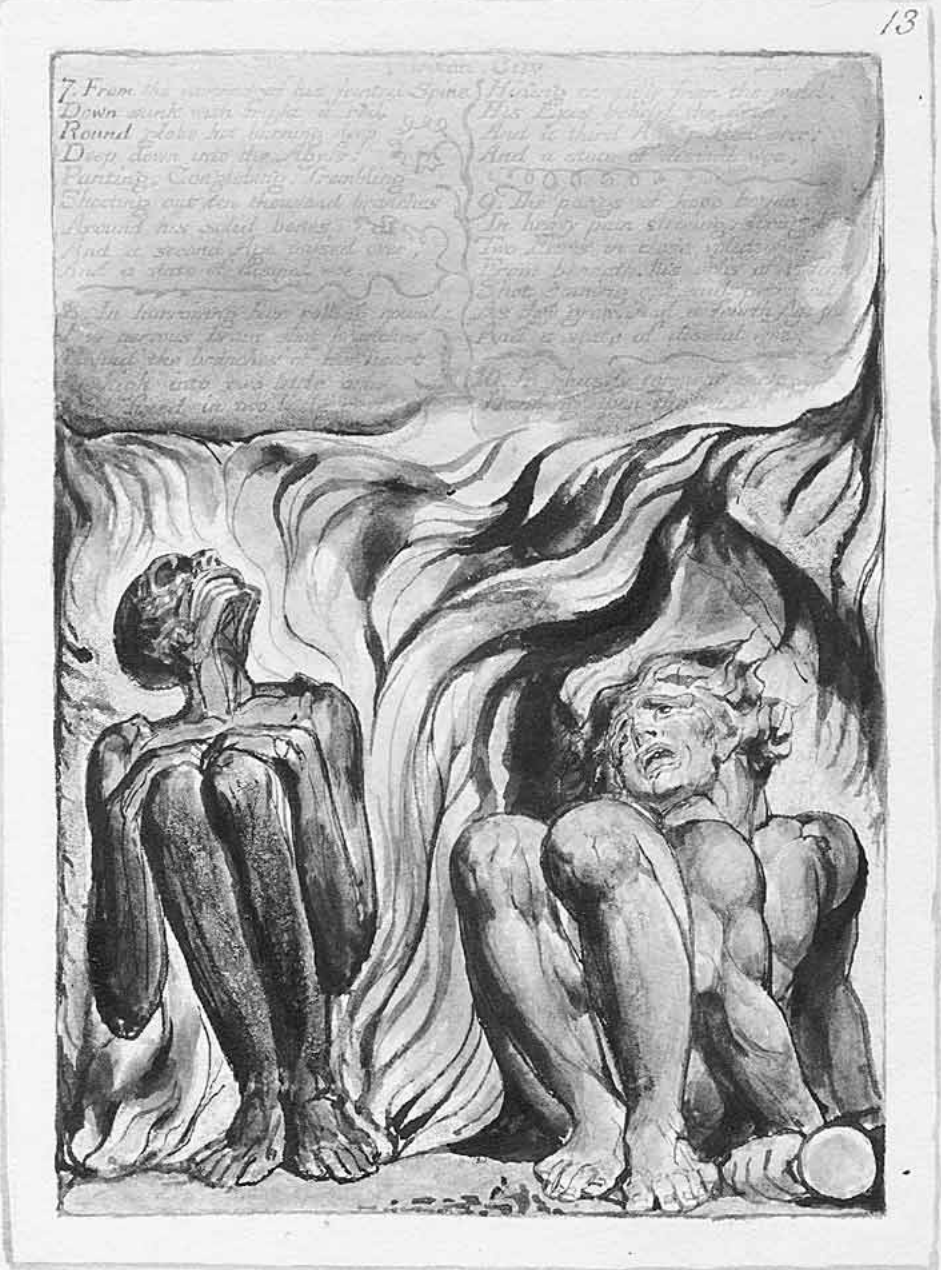
With rivets of iron & brass;

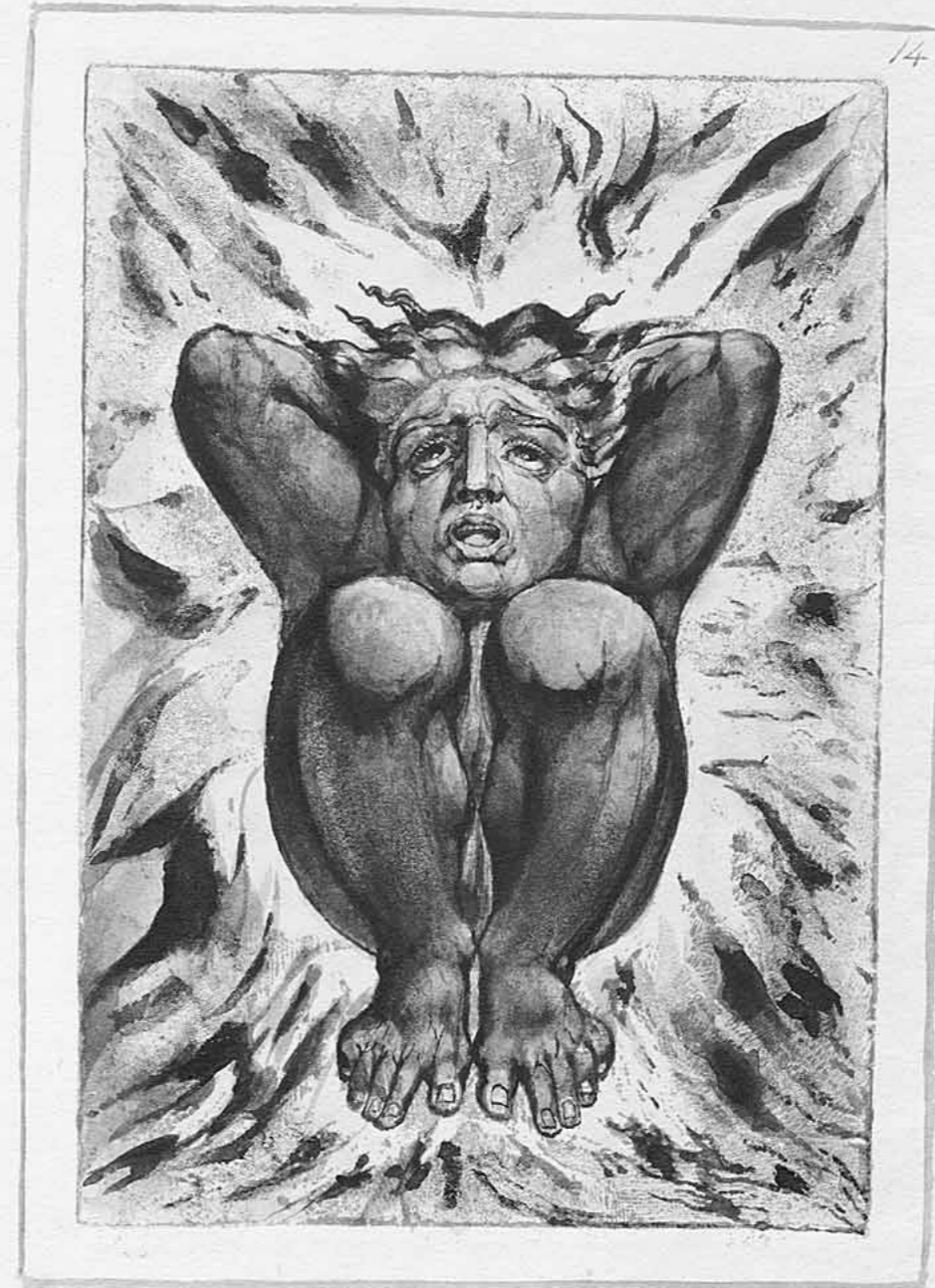




Chap. IV.  
 Ages on ages roll'd over him,  
 In stony sleep ages roll'd over him,  
 Like a dark waste stretching changeable  
 By earthquakes ruin, belching sudden  
 Fires  
 In ages roll'd ages in phantasy  
 Sick torment, around him in whirlwinds  
 Of darkness the eternal Prophet howl'd  
 Howling still on his rivets of iron,  
 Pouring sodor of iron; dividing  
 The horrible night into watches  
 And Urizen (so his eternal name)  
 His prothic delight obscured more & more  
 In dark secrecy, hiding in surging  
 Sulphurous fluid his phantasies  
 The Eternal Prophet heard the duct  
 bellows  
 And turn'd restless the tongue, and the  
 hammer  
 Incessant beat; forging chains new & new  
 Mumbling wide thro' hours days & years  
 The eternal mind howl'd began to roll  
 Edges of wrath coasted round & round  
 And the sulphurous hum surging thick  
 Scolded a lake, bright, & shining clear,  
 White as the snow on the mountains cold  
 A Forgetfulness darkened, purple  
 In chains of the mind, locked up  
 Like letters of ice sprinkling together  
 Desarted, ran from eternity  
 Lay beat on his fetters of iron,  
 And heated his furnaces to pour'd  
 Iron sodor and sodor of brass  
 Restless turn'd the immortal unchain'd  
 Heaving, dolorous, unquench'd, unbearable  
 Till a roof chagg'd, dull enclosed  
 In an orb, his mountain of thought  
 In a horrible eternal slumber,  
 Like the linked eternal chain;  
 A rust, spine writh'd in torment,  
 Upon the winds; shooting pain'd  
 Ribs, like a bounding cavern  
 And bones of solitaires, boys  
 Over all his nerves of joy  
 And a first Age pass'd over,  
 And a state of eternal woe.







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Urizen Ch. V.

No Nostribs bent down to the deep, In trembling & howling & dismay,  
 And a fifth Age pass'd over; And a seventh Age pass'd over;  
 And a state of dismal woe; And a state of dismal woe.

11. In phantasmic torment sick; 1. In torments Las shrink from his  
 Within his ribs bloated round. taste;

A craving Hungry Cavern; His great hammer fell from his hand;  
 Hence arose his chunnell Throat; His eyes behold, and sighing,  
 And like a red flame a Tongue; And their strong limbs in smokes,  
 Of thirst & of hunger appear'd; For with noises ruinous loud;  
 And a sixth Age pass'd over; With hurtings & clappings & groans  
 And a state of dismal woe; The immortal endur'd his chains,  
 Tho bound in a deadly sleep.

12. Enraged & stuffed with torment, Tho bound in a deadly sleep,  
 He throw his right Arm to the north, 2. All the pyramids of Eternity,  
 His left Arm to the south; All the wisdom & joy of life;  
 Shooting out in anguish deep; And his Feet stamp'd the nether Abyss  
 Like a sea around him.

Except what his little orbs  
 Of sight by degrees unfold, Then he look'd back with anxious desire,  
 But the space undivided by existence  
 Struck horror into his soul.

3. And now his eternal life  
 Like a drop was obliterated; 6. Las wept & chunnell with mourning;  
 His bosom earthquak'd with sighs;

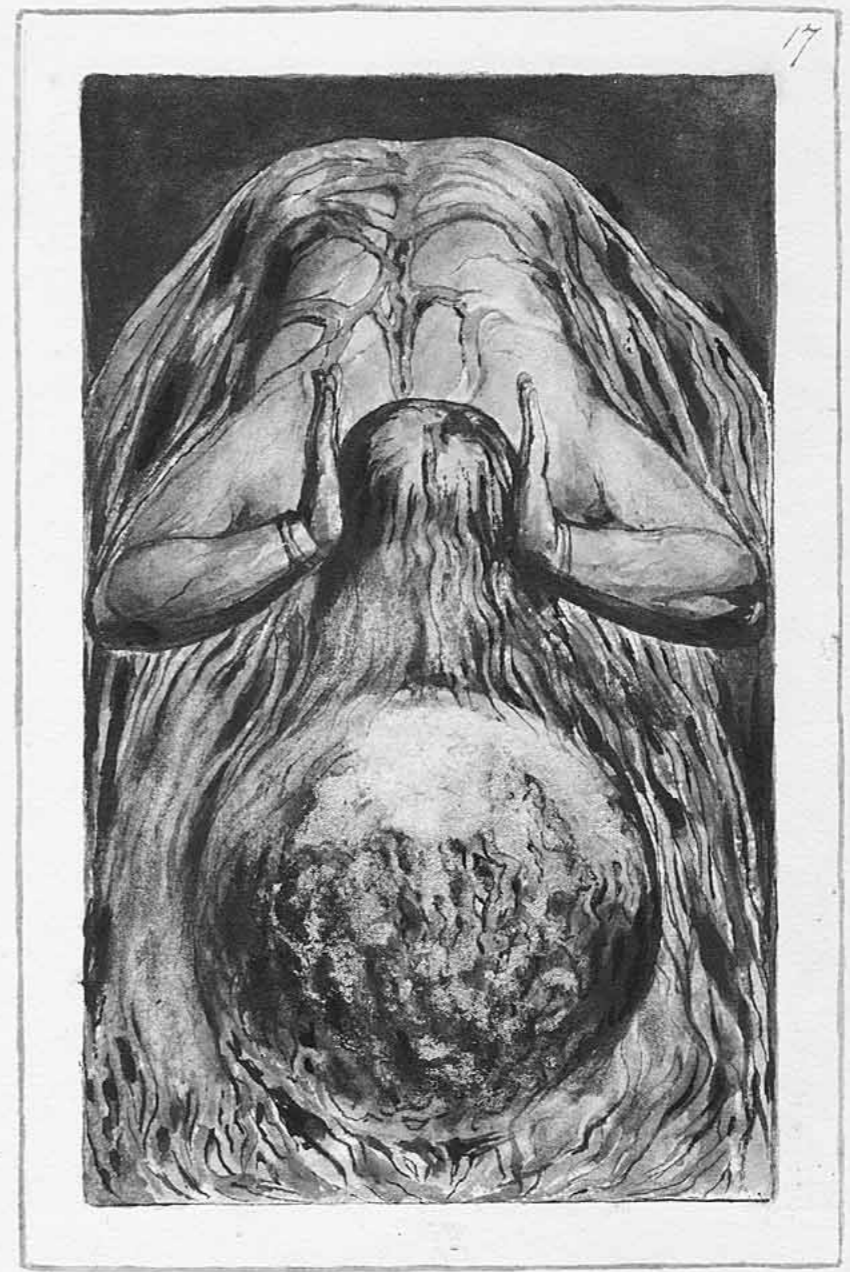
4. Shuddering the Eternal Prophet saw  
 With a stroke from his north to south  
 In his chains bound, & cry began;

The hollows & hollows are silent now  
 In anguish dividing & dividing;  
 A nerveless silence, his prophetic voice  
 For pity divides the soul  
 In purgatory eternity  
 The Eternal Prophet & Urizen close  
 Like to contracts pour'd down his  
 chills

5. Ages on ages roll'd over them  
 The soul shrink the lymph into nerves  
 Cut off from life & light frozen  
 Wandering wide on the bosom of night  
 Into horrible forms of deformity  
 And left a round globe of blood  
 Las suffer his fires to decay  
 Trampling upon the Void











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They call'd her *Red* and *Red* 11  
11. Spread a Tent with strong curtains  
around them  
Let cards & stakes be set in the Tent  
But Eternals may no more behold them

12. They began to weave curtains of  
gold  
They erected large pillars round the Tent  
With golden hooks fasten'd in the pillars  
With indigo labour the Eternals  
A wool weave and call'd it *Science*

Chap. VI

1. But *Los* saw the Female & pitied  
He embrac'd her she wept she refus'd  
In perverse and cruel delight  
She *Red* from his arms yet he follow'd

2. Eternity shudder'd when they saw  
Eternity forgetting his *Liberty*  
On his own devious image

3. A time pass'd over the Eternals  
Began to erect the Tent  
When Enitharmon sick  
Felt a Worm within her womb

4. Yet helpless it lay like a Worm  
In the trembling womb  
To be moulded into existence

5. All day the worm lay on her bosom  
All night within her womb  
The woman lay till it grew to a serpent  
With dolorous hissing & poisons  
Round Enitharmon's loins winding

6. Coiled within Enitharmon's womb  
The serpent grew casting its scales  
With sharp pain the hissing began  
To change to a grating cry  
Many narrows and dismal throes  
Many forges of *Red* fire & heat  
Brought forth an infant form  
Where was a worser *Worm*

7. The Eternals their Tent finished  
Alarm'd with these gloomy visions  
When Enitharmon breathing  
Produced a man Child to the light

8. A shriek ran thro' Eternity  
And a paralytic stroke  
At the birth of the *Plastic* shadow

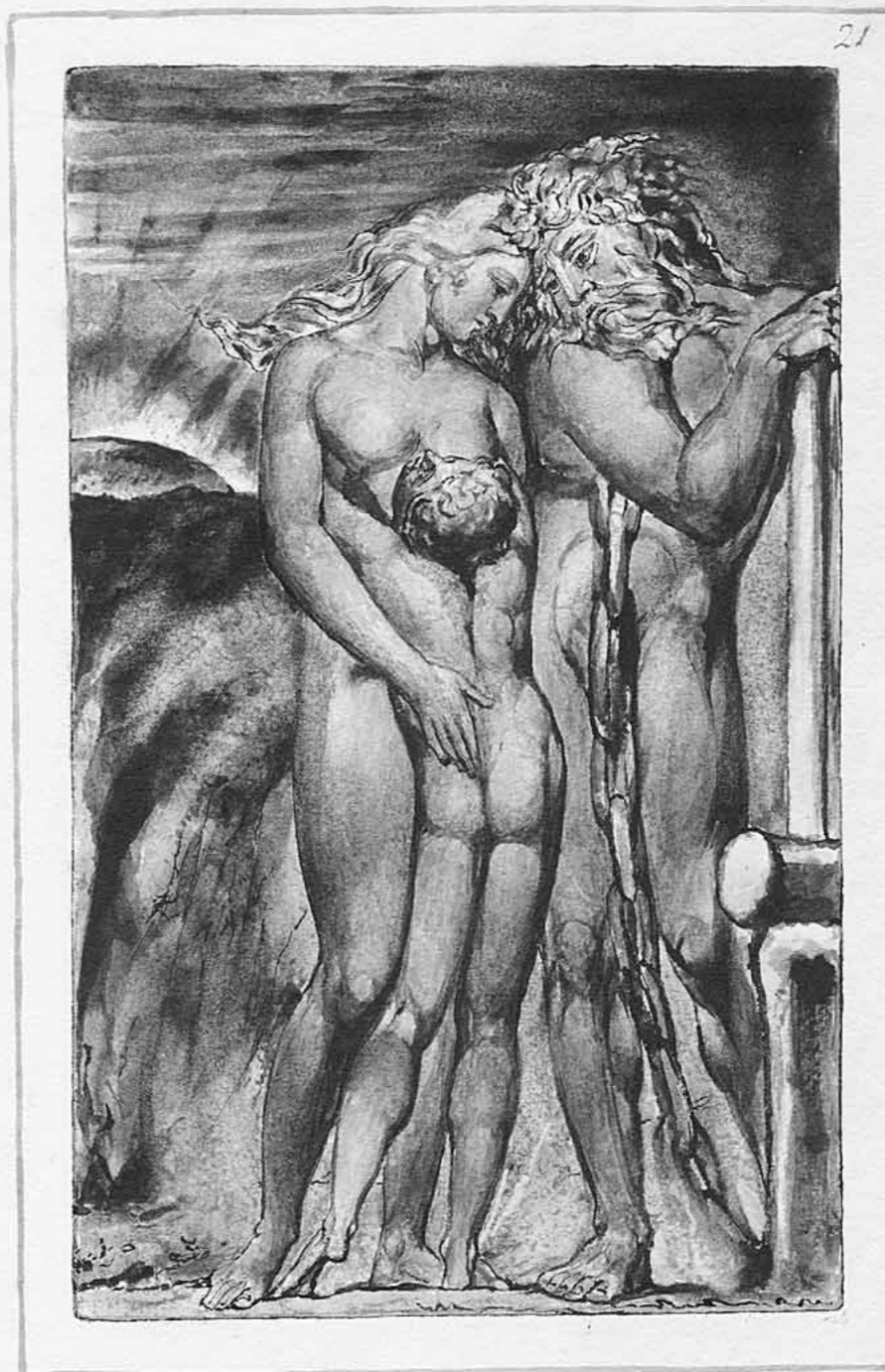
9. Dabbling earth in his roasting  
Howling the Child with fierce flames  
Issued from Enitharmon

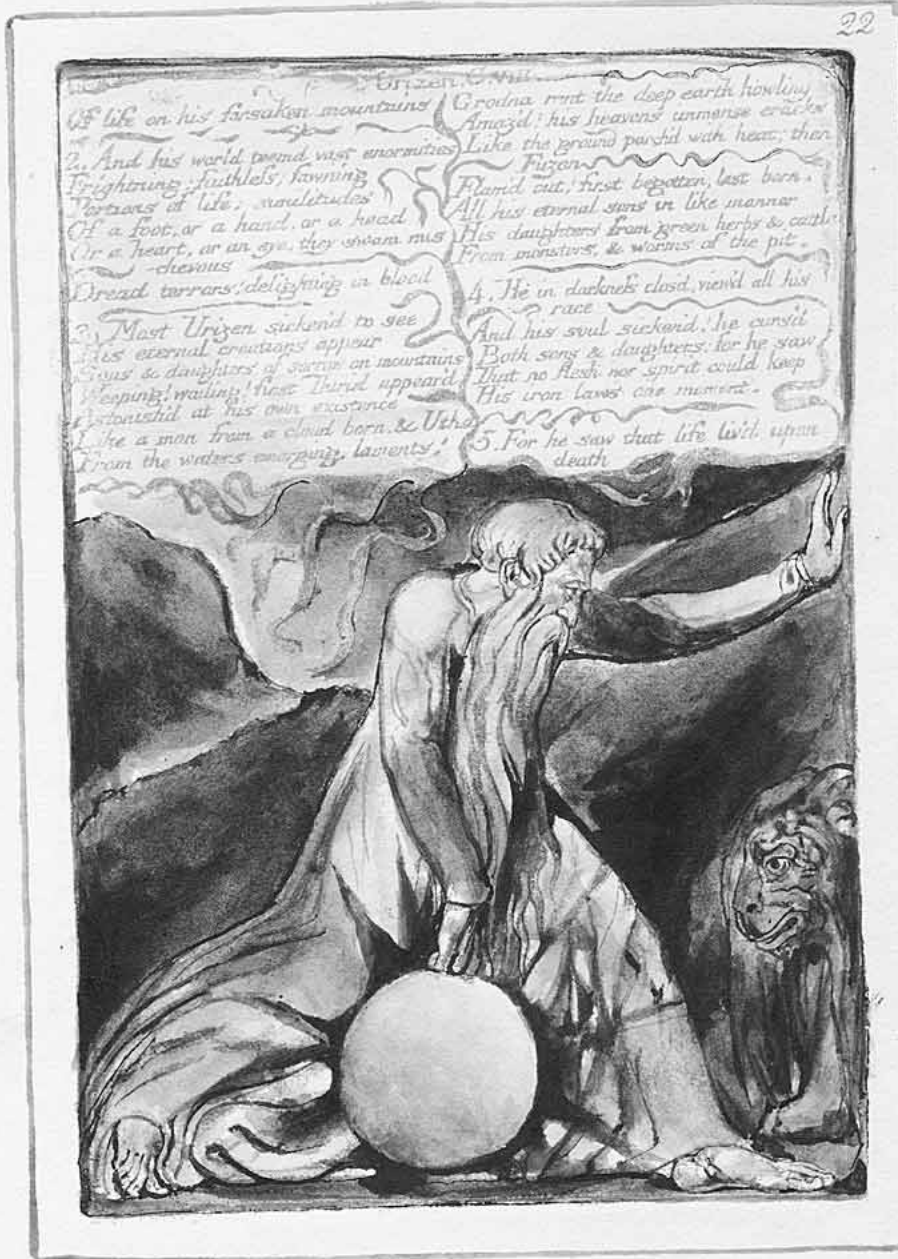
10. The Eternals closed the Tent  
They beat down the stakes the cards

Urizen Cxvii  
 1. Stretch'd for a work of eternity:  
 No more Los behold Eternity.  
 2. In his hands he seiz'd the infant  
 He bath'd him in springs of sorrow  
 He gave him to Enitharmon.  
 3. They nam'd the Child Ore, he prov'd  
 Not with o'ill of Enitharmon.  
 4. Los awokt her, O sorrow to pain.  
 A lightning purple glow  
 Around his bosom, in sobbings  
 He burst the purple in twain.  
 But still another purple glow  
 Envolv'd his bosom, in sobbings  
 Again he burst it, Again  
 Another purple succeed'd  
 The purple was burst by day,  
 By night was burst in twain.  
 5. These falling down on the rock  
 Was an iron chain, nor  
 In each other link by link lock'd.  
 6. They took Ore to the top of a  
 mountain.  
 O how Enitharmon wept!  
 They chang'd his young limbs to the  
 rock  
 With the chain of Jealousy  
 Beneath Urizen's deathful shadow  
 7. The dead heard the voice of the  
 child  
 And began to awake from sleep  
 All things heard the voice of the child  
 And began to awake to life.  
 8. And Urizen craving with hunger  
 Spun with the colours of Nature  
 Explor'd his dens around  
 9. He form'd a line & a plummet  
 To divide the Abyss beneath.  
 He form'd a standing rule:  
 10. He form'd scales to weigh:  
 He form'd many weights.  
 He form'd a dozen quadrants:  
 He form'd golden compasses  
 And began to explore the Abyss  
 And he plant'd a garden of Trees  
 11. But Los encircled Enitharmon  
 With hoops of Prophesy  
 From the sight of Urizen & Ore.  
 12. And she bare an enormous race  
 Chap. VIII  
 1. Urizen explor'd his dens  
 Mountain, moor, & wilderness,  
 With a globe of fire lighting his  
 journey  
 A fearful journey, annoy'd  
 By cruel enormities: Tarms















Chap: IX

The Ox in the slaughter house moans  
The Dog at the wretched door  
And he wags, & he calls it Fat  
And his tears flow down in the mire  
Cold he wanders on hills, over  
their cities  
In weeping & pain as well  
And wherever he wanders in sorrow  
Upon the open heavens  
A cold shadow follow behind him  
As a spiders web, most cold he duns  
Drawing out from his sorrowing soul  
The darkness like heaven dividing  
Where ever the footsteps of Urizen  
Walk'd over the cities in sorrow.

Then the Inhabitants of these Cities  
Felt their Nerves charge into Marrow  
And haggard Bores began  
In death diseases and torments  
In the prisons & shootings & grindings  
Thro all the coasts, all weakness  
The Serpents inward rush'd shrieking  
Through the dark net of infection.

All the drunken eyes clouded over  
Disorder'd not the wiving hypocryt  
But the stretchy slins in their houses  
Brought together by narrowing perceptions  
Appear'd transparent air: for their eyes  
Grew small like the eyes of a man  
And in reptile forms snaking together  
Of seven feet stature they remain'd

Six days they shrunk up from existence  
And on the seventh day they rested  
And they blest the seventh day, in sleep  
And forgot their eternal life

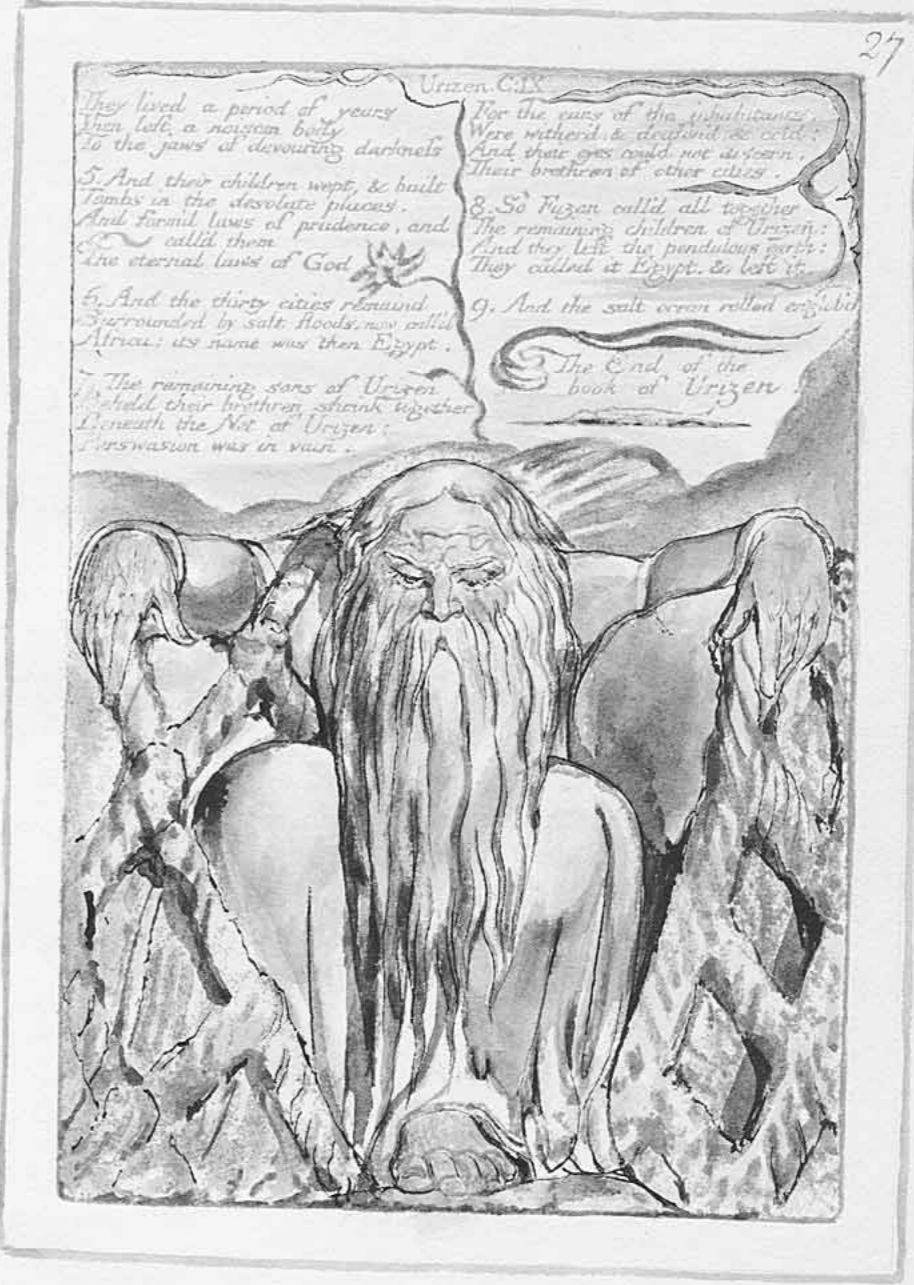
And their thirty cities divided  
In form of a human heart  
No more could they rise at will  
In the intricate world, but bound down  
By their narrowing perceptions

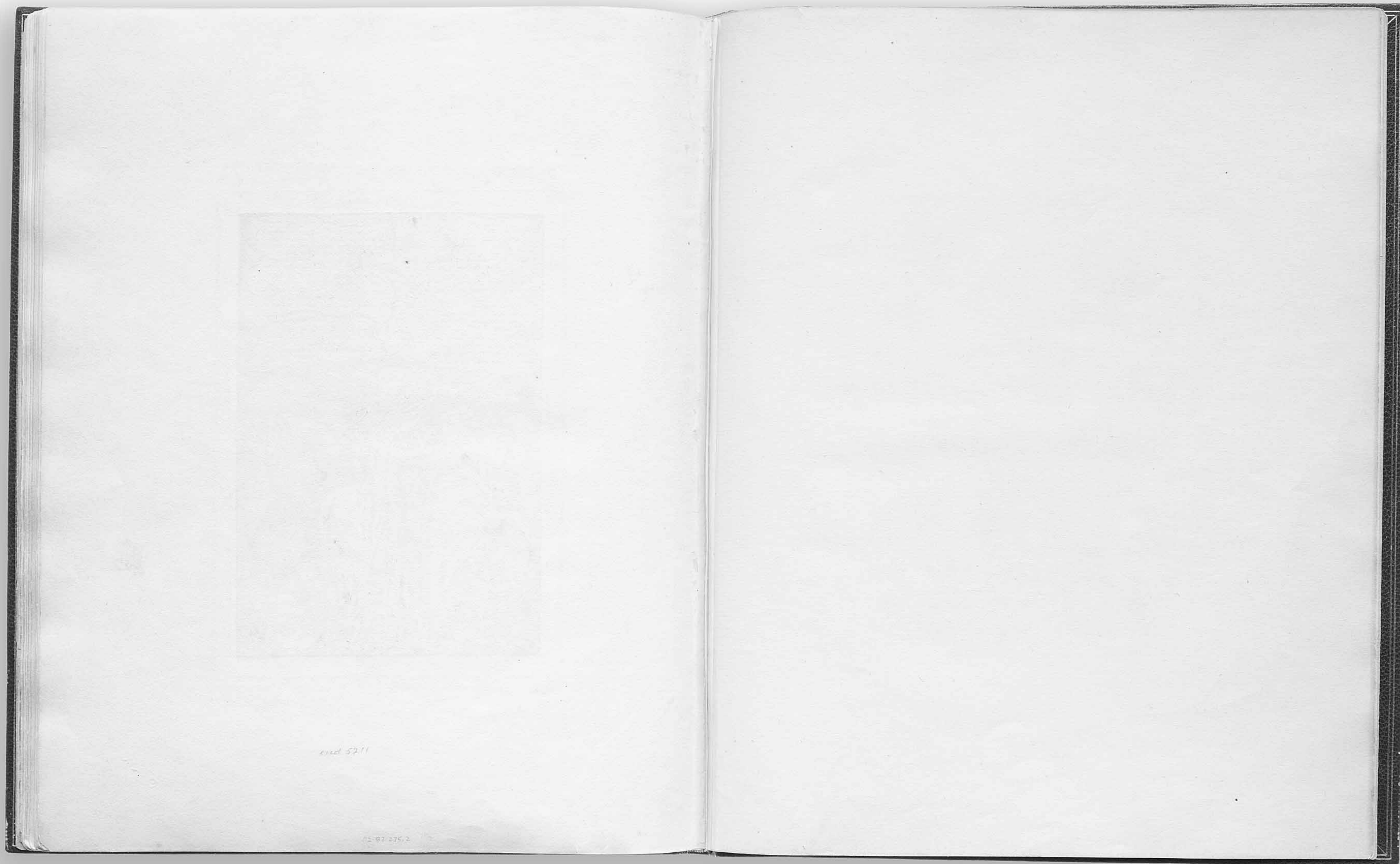
1. Till a Web dar'd & cold, throughout all  
The torment'd element stretch'd  
From the sorrows of Urizens soul  
And the Web is a female in embryo  
None could break the Web, no wings  
of fee.

2. So twisted the cords, & so knotted  
The meshes, twisted like to the  
human brain

3. And all call'd it, the Net of Red



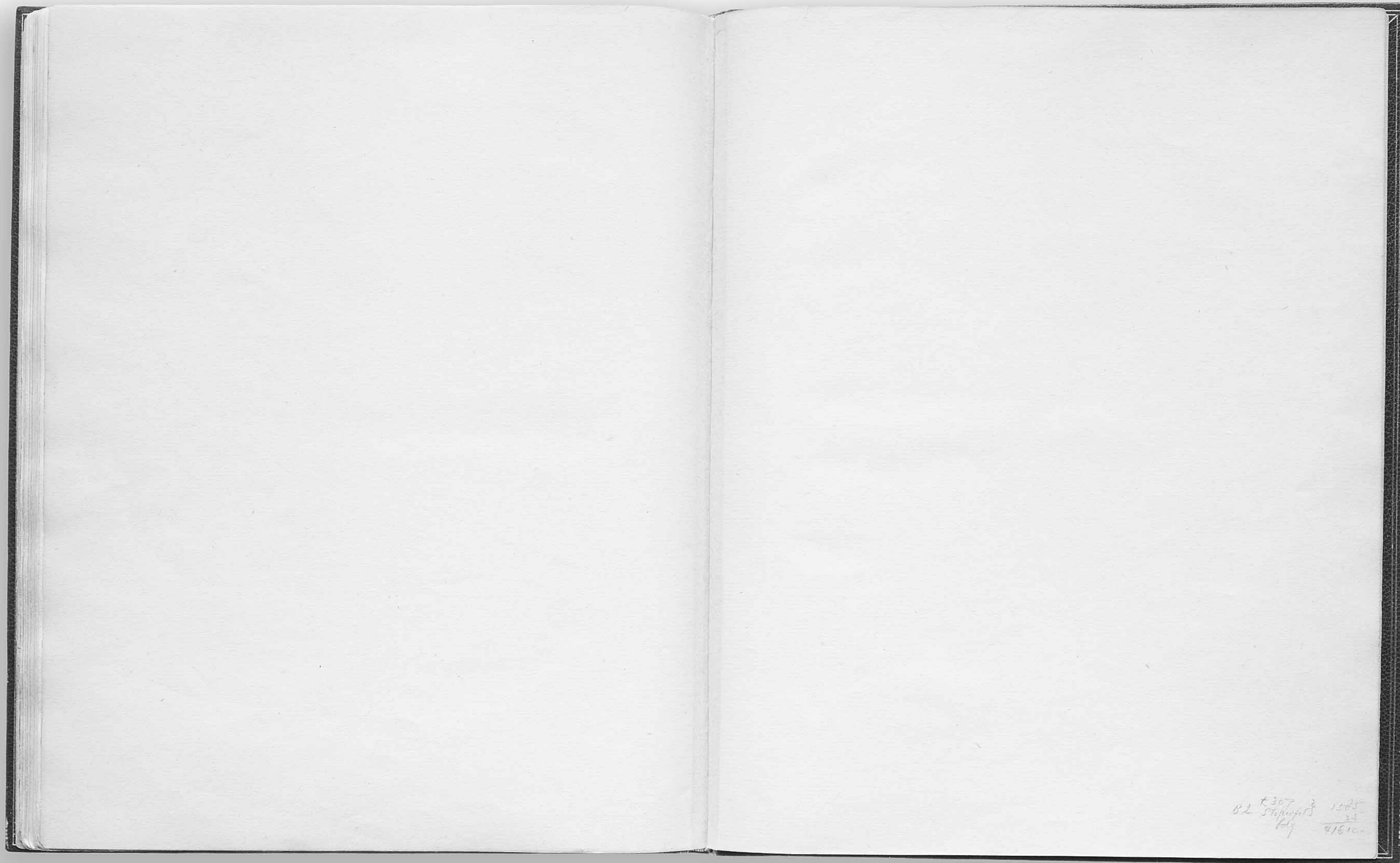




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