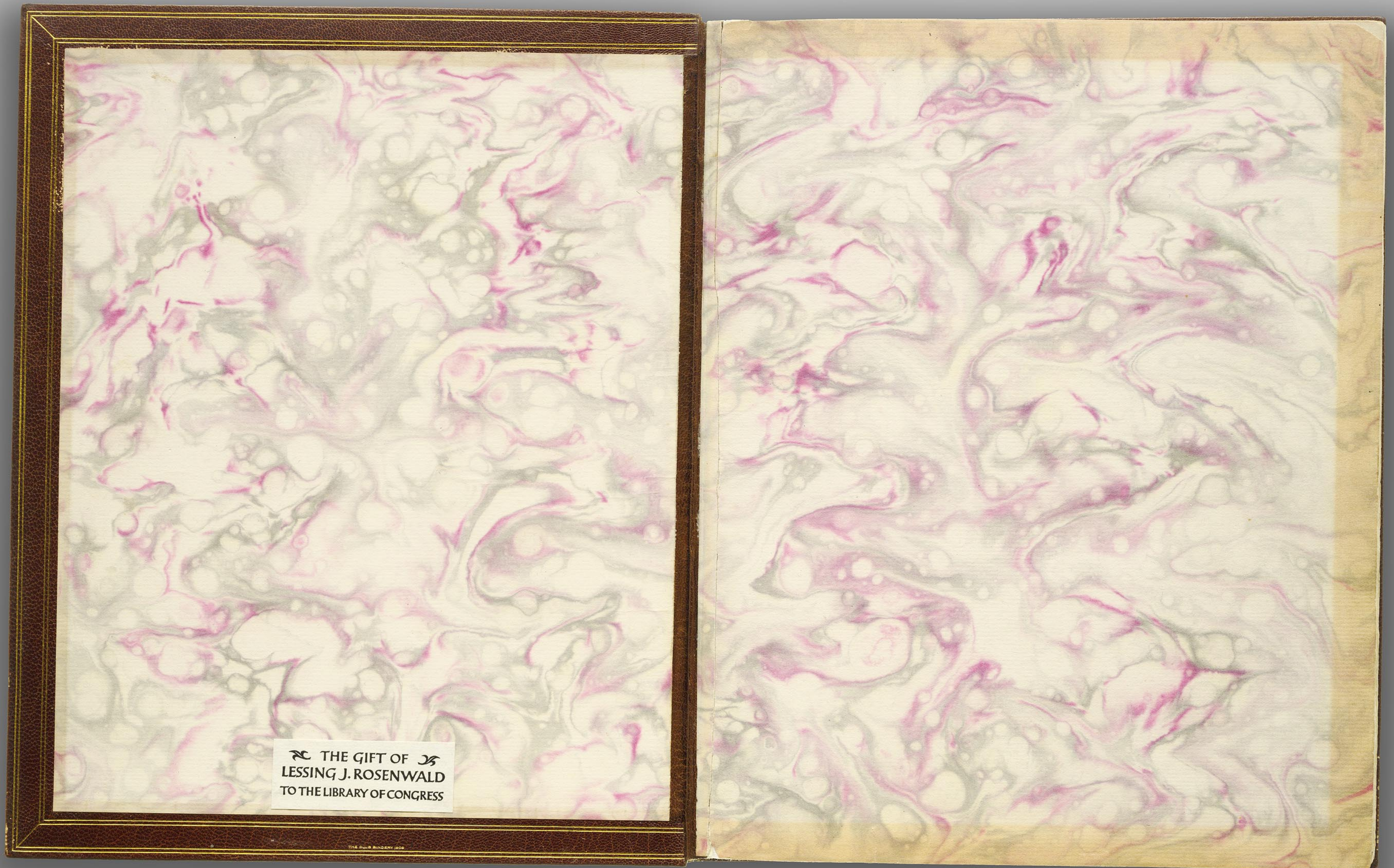




William Blake *The Book of Urizen* London, ca. 1818 **Octavo** VIEW 1 of 35

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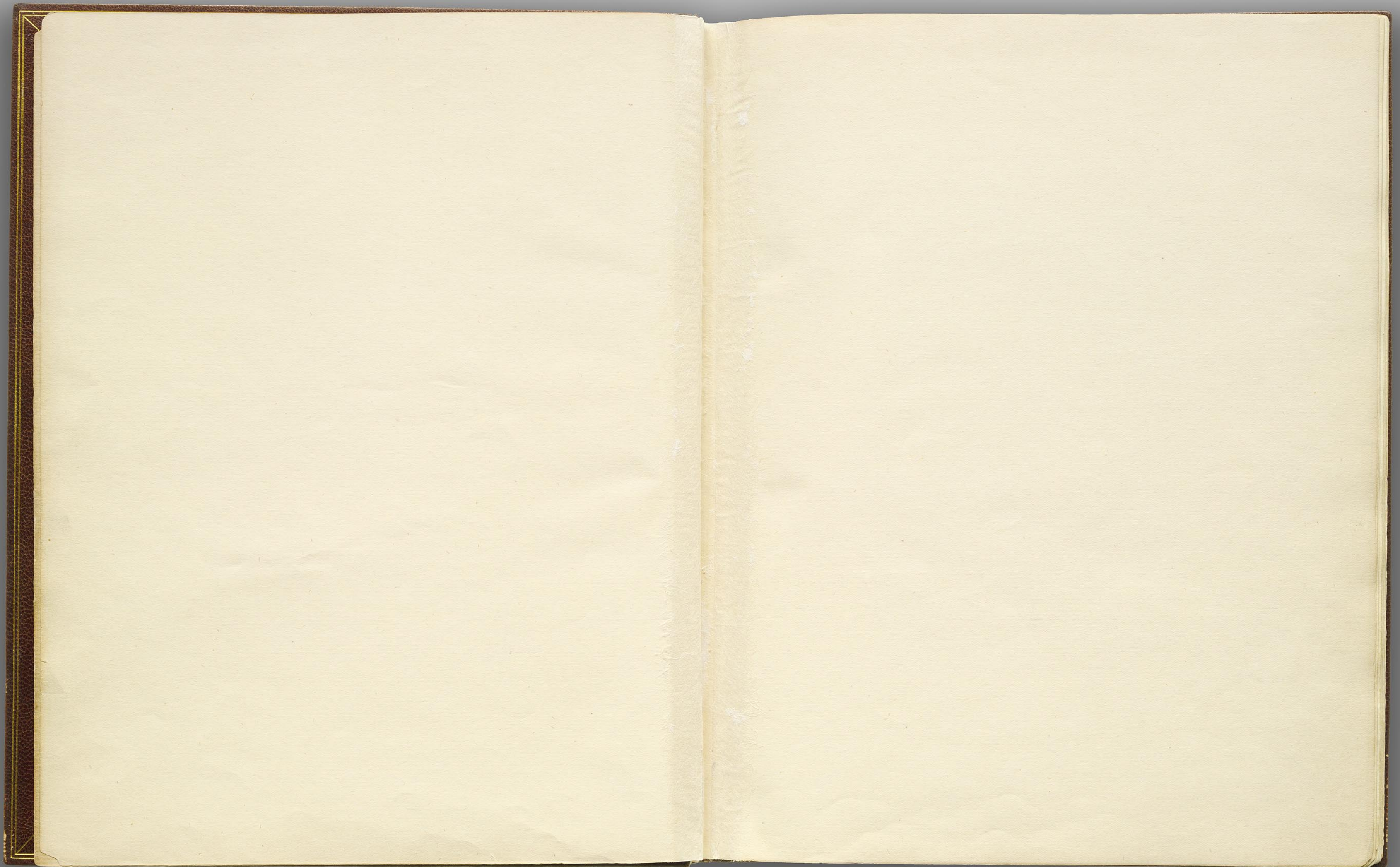
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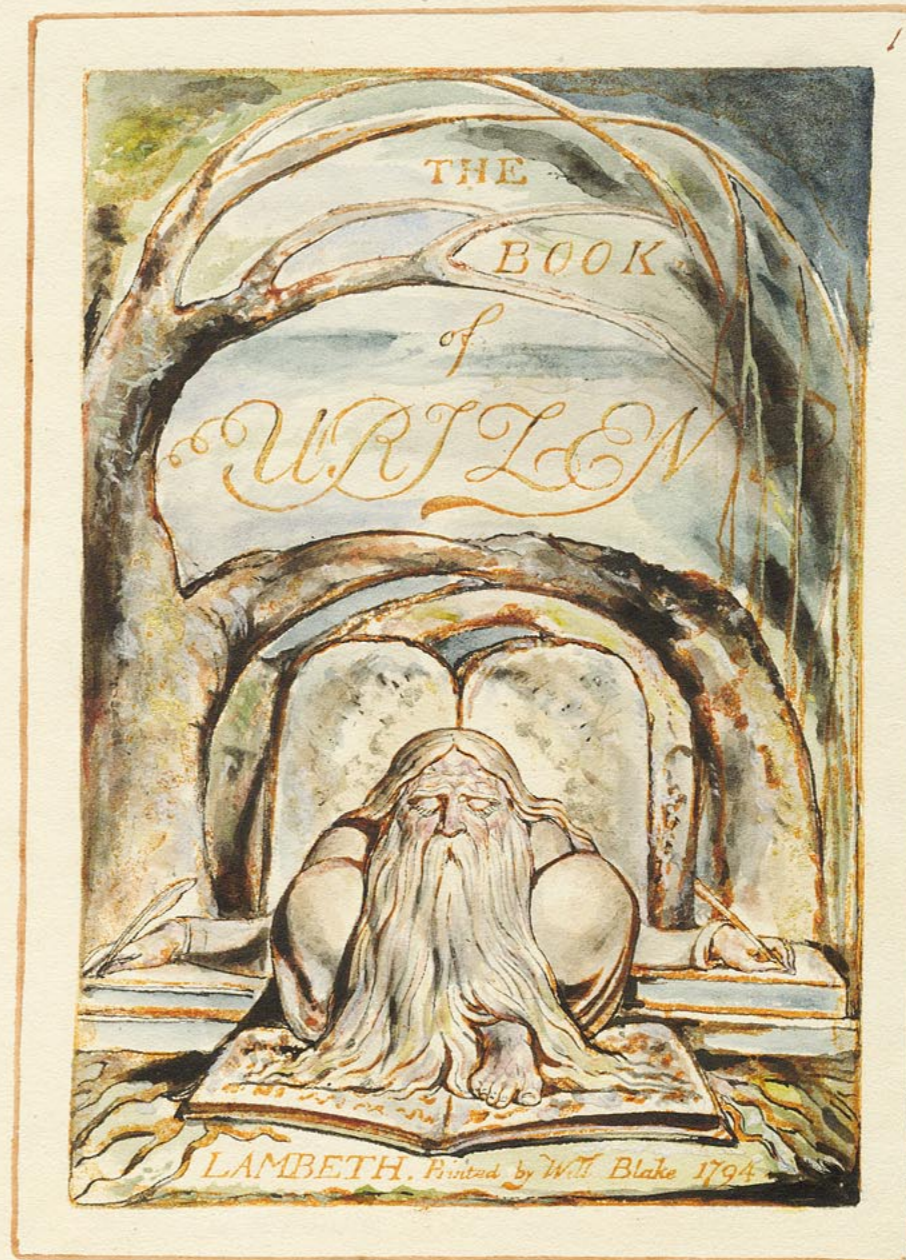
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W. Blake  
Apr 20 1803



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Chap: I

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

2. This soul-shudd'ring vacuum? Some  
Le is Urizen, But unknown, abstracted  
Revolving secret, the dark power hid

3. In his hills of stur'd snow, in his  
In his dark lone mountains rid'd furious  
By his black winds of perturbation

4. For he strove in battles dire  
In unseen confessions with shapes  
By'd from his forsaken wilderness  
Combustion, blast, vapour and cloud

5. A Dark revolving in silent activity  
In unseen tormenting passions;  
A self-contemplating shadow,  
In enormous labours occupied

6. But Eternals behold his vast furrows  
As on eyes he lay, clas'd, unknown,  
Breathing shut in the deep; all av'ry  
The petrific abominable chaos

7. His cold horrors silent, dark Urizen  
Prepar'd; his ten thousands of thunders  
Rang'd in gleam'd array stretch out across  
The broad world, & the rolling of wheels

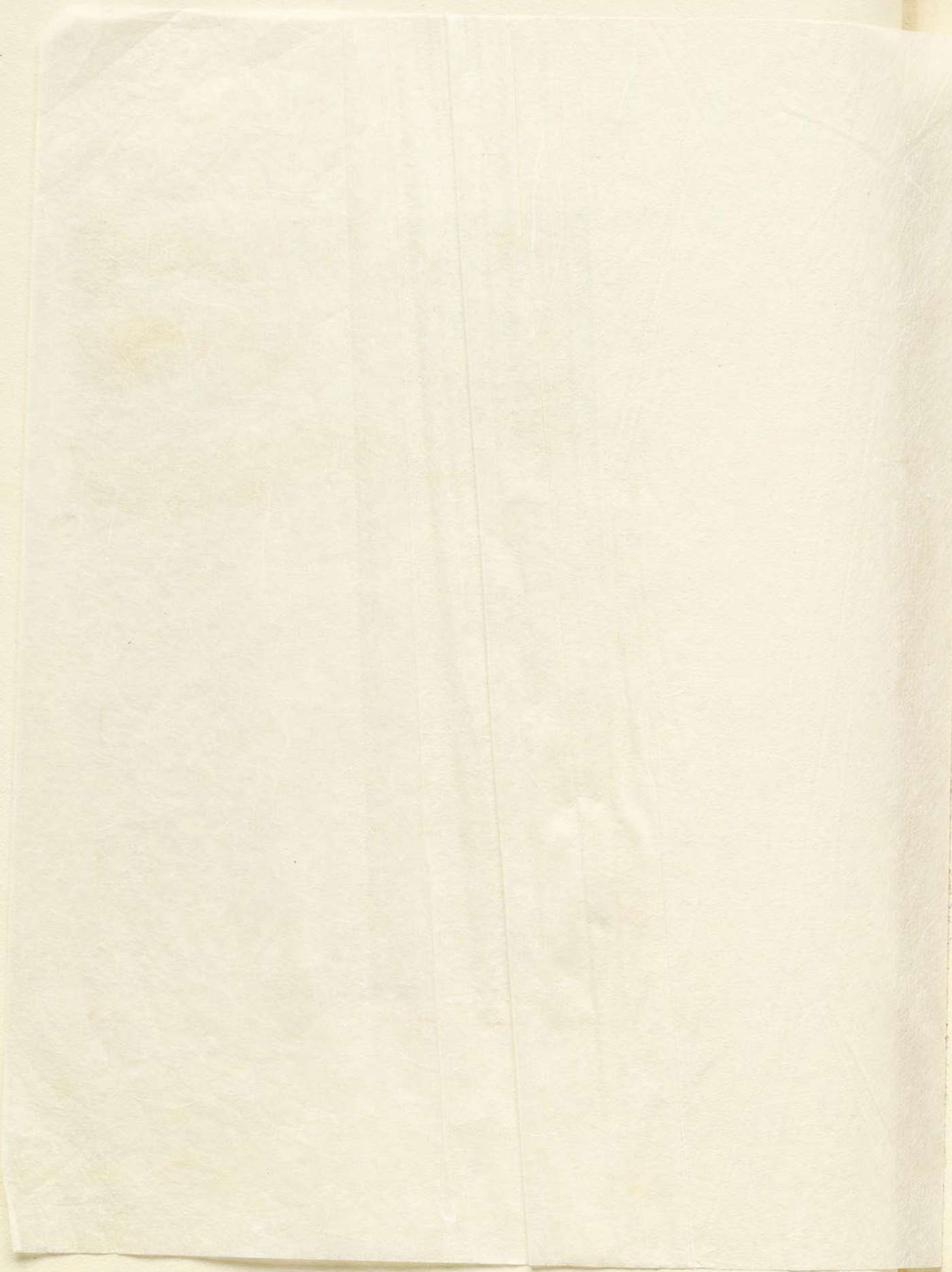
8. As if swelling even, sound in his clouds  
In his hills of stur'd snow, in his  
Of hail & ice; voices of terror  
Are heard, like thunders of autumn  
When the clouds blaze over the harvests

Chap: II

1. Earth was not; nor globes of atoms  
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  
Awoke & vast clouds of blood roll'd  
Round the dim rocks of Urizen, so nam'd  
That solitary one in loneliness

3. Shall the trumpet; & organs of the



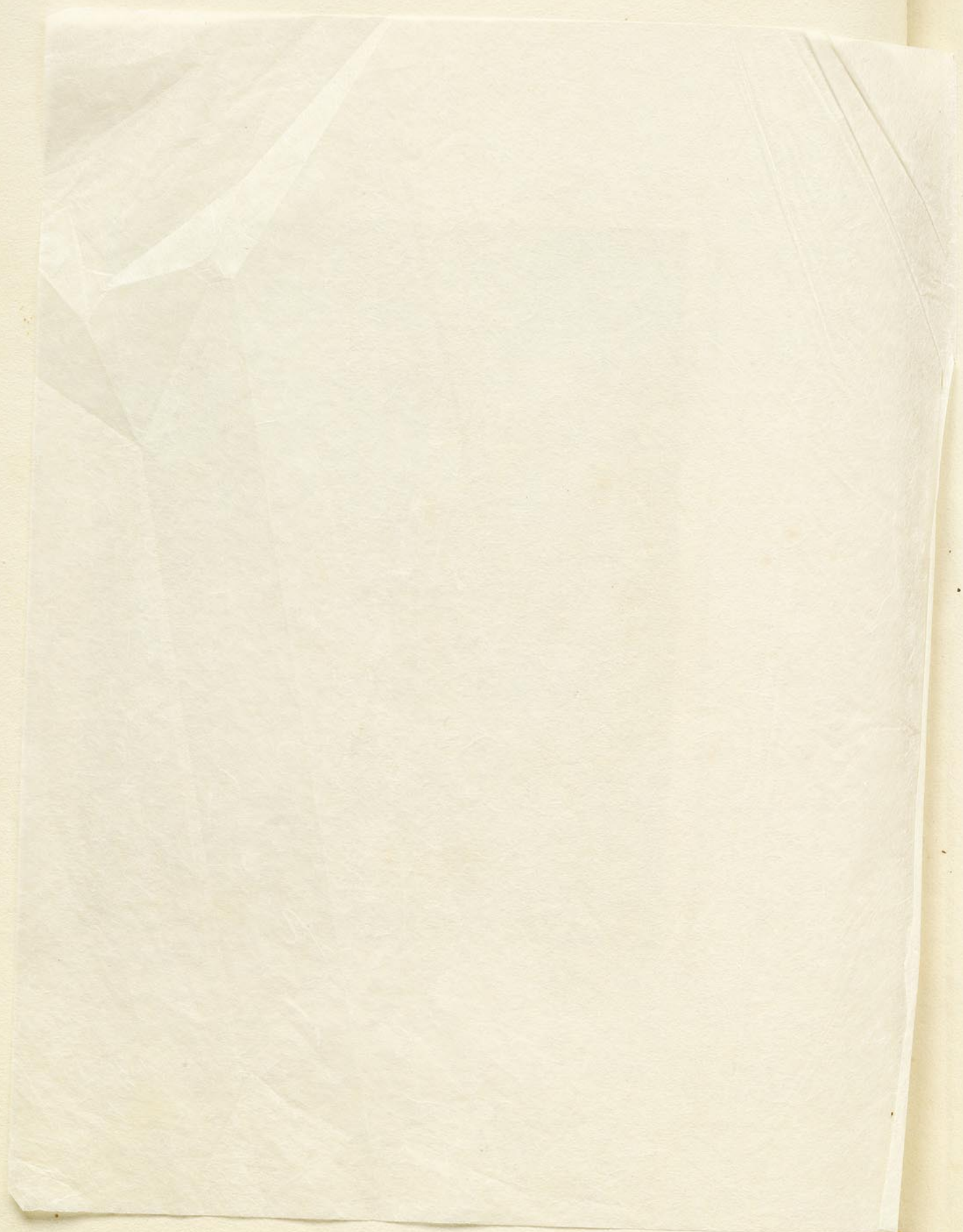




In windy creations appeared  
In the flames of eternal fire.  
3. Standing, darkening, thundering,  
Eternity rolled wide, apart  
Wide asunder rolling  
Mountainous all around  
Departing; departing; departing;  
Leaving ruinous fragments of life  
Hanging from cliffs & all between  
In ocean of winds undimable  
4. The roaring fires ran over the heaves  
In whirlwinds & currents of blood  
Fled over the dark deserts of Urizen  
From your thro' the wild on all sides  
On Urizen's self-begotten armies  
5. But no light from the fires, all was  
darkness  
In the flames of Eternal fire  
6. In fierce anguish & quenchless  
flames  
To the deserts and rocks he ran  
To hide, but he could not; combining  
No, did them in incessant labour,  
In howlings & pangs & fierce madnels  
Long periods in burning fires labouring  
Till weary, and eye-broke, and aged  
In despair and the shadows of death  
7. And a roof vast over the ground  
On all sides he fringed: like a womb  
Where thousands of rivers in rains  
Of blood pour down the mountains to cool  
The eternal fires' beating without  
From Eternals; & like a black globe  
Fixed by sons 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 confine,  
The obscure separation alone;  
For Eternity stood wide apart











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Chap: IV: -ment

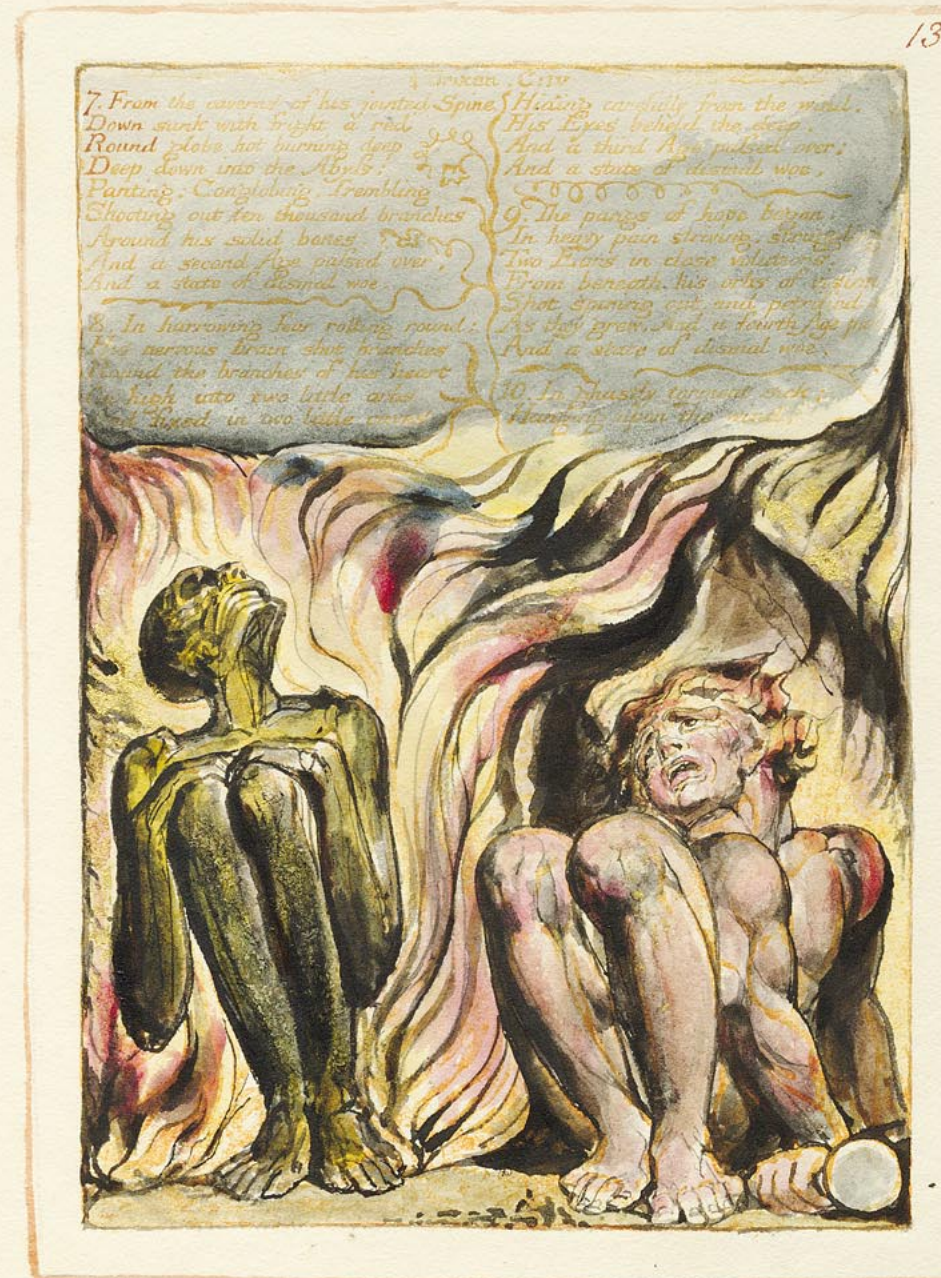
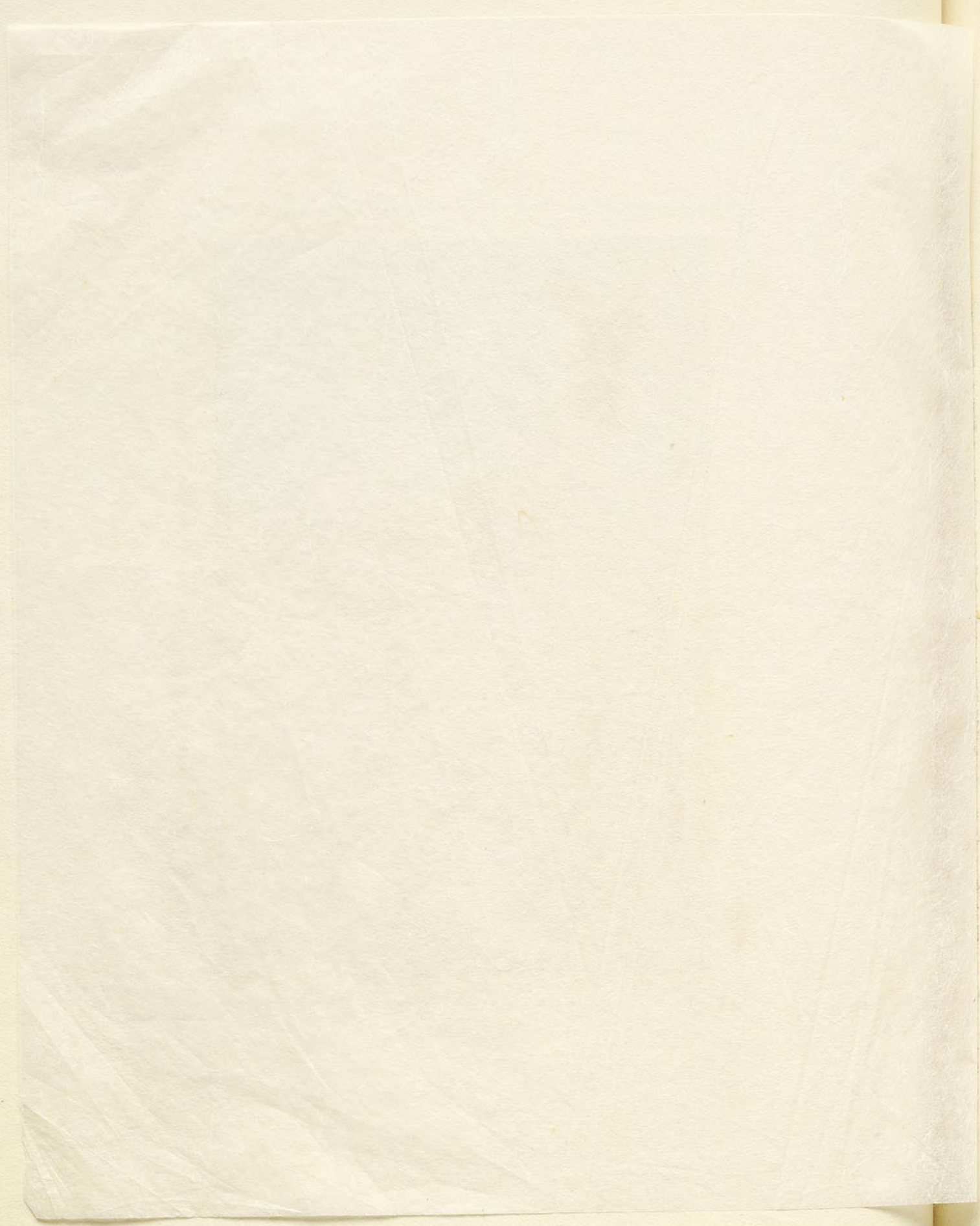
1: Lias smitten with astonish- Frightend at the hurling bones	4: And Lias formed nets & gins And threw the nets round about
2: And at the surging sulphure -ous	5: He watchd in shuddring fear The dark changes & bound every change
3: Perturbed Immortal mad raging In whirlwinds & pitch & nitre Round the furious limbs of Lias	6: And these were the changes of Urizen



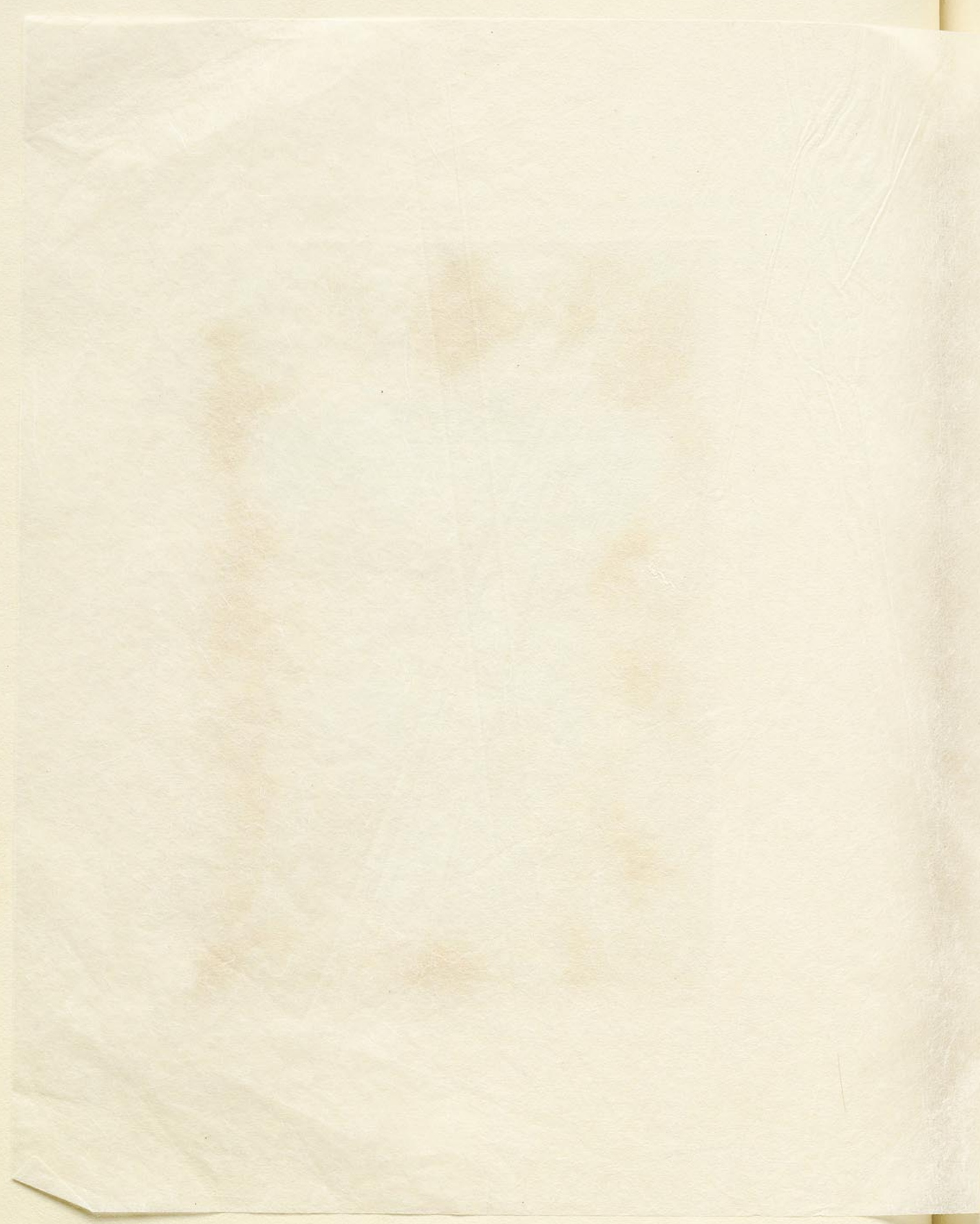


Chap. IV.  
Ages on ages roll'd over him;     Setled, a lake, bright, & shining clear;  
In stony sleep ages roll'd over him;     White as the snow on the mountains cold  
Like a duck made scratching chargeable     By earthquakes ruin, belching sullen  
In ages roll'd ages in phastly     In chains of the mind locked up,  
Such torment, around him in whirlwinds     Like letters of ice shrinking together  
Of darkness the eternal Prophet howl'd     Disorganised, rant from Eternity;  
Beating still on his rivets of iron     Lies heat on his fetters of iron;  
Pouring sodor of iron; dividing     And heated his furnaces so pour'd  
The horrible night into watches     Iron sodor and sodor of brass  
And Urizen (so his eternal name)     Resistless turn'd the immortal unchain'd  
His prolific delight obscur'd more & more     Heaving, dolorous, unquench'd, unbearable  
In dark secrecy, hiding in surging     Till a roof shaggy wild enclosed  
Sulphureous fluid his phantasies     In an orb, his mountain of thought  
The Eternal Prophet heard the dactyl     6. In a horrible dream'd slumber;  
bellows.     Like the link'd eternal chain;  
And turn'd resistless the tongs; and the     A rust-spine writh'd in torment,  
hammer     Upon the winds; shooting pain'd  
Incandescent heat; forging chains new & new     Ribs, like a bending cavern  
Munbrung with love, hours days & years     And bones of solitaires, froze  
7. The eternal mind bounded began to roll     Over all his nerves of joy.  
Lashes of wrath coasted round & round     And a first Age pass'd over,  
And the sulphureous beam surging thick     And a state of eternal woe.









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Urizen C: V.

Two Nadrils 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.

Chap. V.

11. In ghastly torment sick; Within his ribs bloated round.  
A craving Hungry Cavern: Hence arose his channell'd Throat.  
And like a red flame a Tongue His great hammer fell from his hand:  
Of thirst & of hunger appear'd His fires beheld, and sickening,  
And a sixth Age pass'd over: And their strong limbs in snails.  
And a state of dismal woe. For with noises ruinous loud;  
With hurlings & dashings & groans  
The Immortal endur'd his chains  
Who bound in a deadly sleep.

12. Enraged & stuf'd with torment His left Arm to the south,  
He throw his right Arm to the north,  
Shooting out in anguish deep,  
And his Feet stamp'd the nether Abyss  
2. All the myriads of Eternity,  
All the wisdom & joy of life:  
Roll 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 dream was obliterated  
6. Los wept obscure'd with mourning:  
His bosom earthquak'd with sighs.

4. Shudd'ring, the Eternal Prophet smote  
With a stroke, from his north to south  
He saw Urizen deadly black,  
In his chains bound, & cry began.

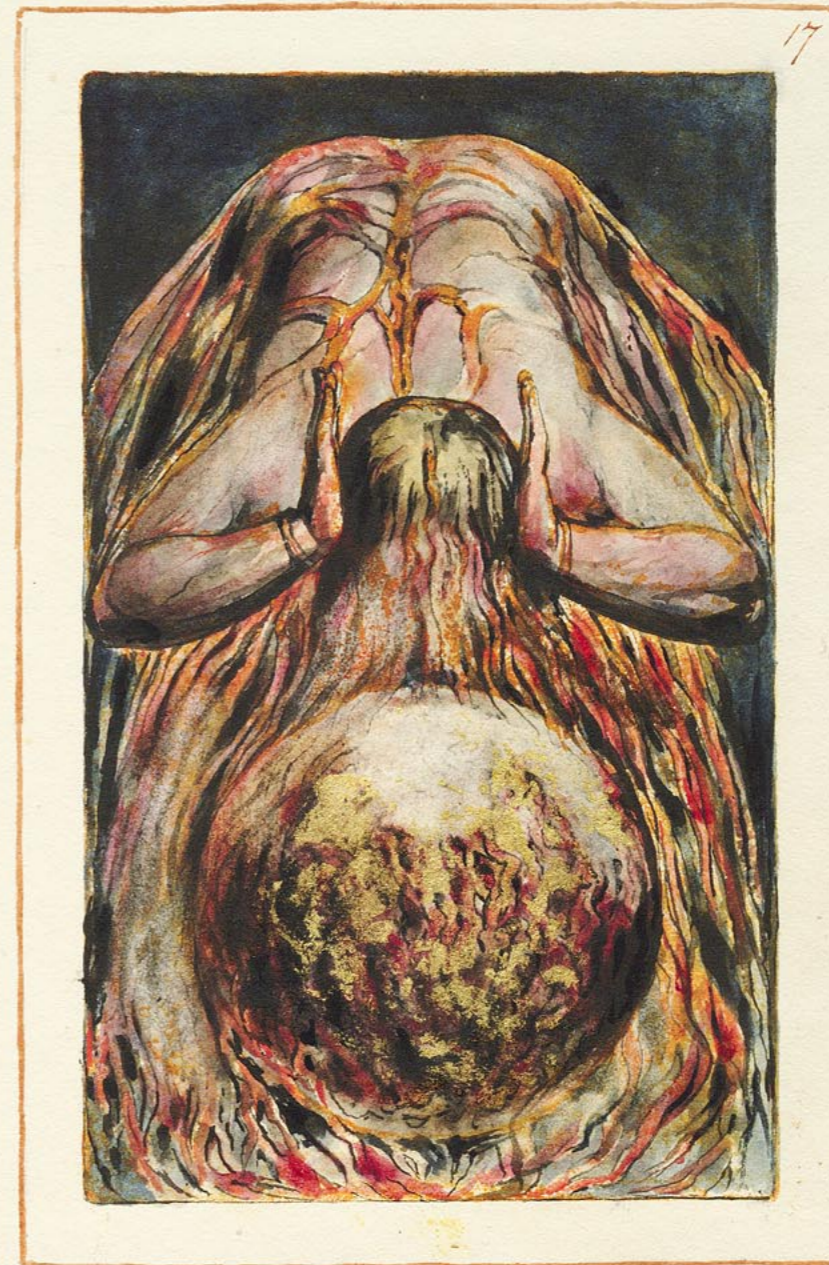
The bellows & hammer are silent now  
A nerveless silence, his prophetic voice  
In anguish dividing & dividing  
For pity divides the soul

Said; a cold solitude & dark void  
The Eternal Prophet & Urizen clos'd  
Life in equaracts pour'd down his  
claws

5. Ages on ages roll'd over them  
Cut all from life & light frozen  
The void shrink the lymph into fumes  
Wandering wide on the bosom of night

Into horrible forms of deformity  
And left a round globe of blood  
Los suffer'd his fires to decay  
Trembling upon the Void









They call'd her *Pity* and *Red* 5. All day the worm lay on her bosom  
All night within her womb  
11. Spread a Tent with strong cur- The worm lay till it grew to a ser-  
tains around them pent  
Let cords & stakes bind in the Void With dolorous hissing & poisons  
That Eternals may no more behold them Round Enitharmon's loins hiding.

12. They began to weave curtains of 6. Coild within Enitharmon's womb  
darkness The serpent grew casting its scales  
They erected large pillars round the Void With sharp pain's the hissing began  
With golden hooks fasten'd in the pillars To change to a grating cry  
With indurate labour the Eternals Many sorrows and dismal throes  
A wool wire and called it *Science* Many fangs of *Red* first & best  
brought forth an infant form  
Chap: VI Where was a worm before.

1. But *Los* saw the Female & pined He embrac'd her she wept she refus'd  
In perverse and cruel delight 7. The Eternals their tent finished  
She *Red* from his arms yet he follow'd Alarm'd with these gloomy visions  
Produced a man Child in the light.

2. Eternity shudder'd when they saw 8. A shriek ran thro' Eternity;  
Man begetting his likeness And a paralytic stroke:  
On his own divided image At the birth of the Human shadow.

3. A time pass'd over the Eternals 9. Delving earth in his restless  
Began to erect the tent: way:  
When Enitharmon sick, Howling the Child with fierce flames  
Felt a Worm within her womb. Issued from Enitharmon.

4. Yet helpless it lay like a Worm 10. The Eternals, clos'd the tent  
In the trembling womb They beat down the stakes the cards  
To be moulded into existence.

Urizen C. VII

Stretch'd for a work of eternity:  
No more Loos beheld Eternity.

11. In his hands he stay'd the infant  
He bath'd him in springs of sorrow  
He gave him to Enitharmon.

Chap. VII.

1. They nam'd the Child Ore, he grew  
Fed with milk of Enitharmon.

2. Loos awak'd her, O sorrow & pain,  
A lightning girdle grew  
Around his bosom. In sobbings  
He burst the girdle in twain.  
But still another girdle grew  
Around his bosom. In sobbings  
Again he burst it. Again  
Another girdle succ'ded  
The girdle was burst by day,  
By night was burst in twain.

3. These falling down on the rock  
Into an iron Chain, or  
In each other link by link lock'd.

4. They took Ore to the top of a  
mountain.  
O how Enitharmon wept!  
They chain'd his young limbs to the  
rock  
With the Chain of Jealousy  
Beneath Urizen's deathful shadow

5. 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.

6. And Urizen craving with hunger  
Stung with the odours of Nature  
Explored his dens around

7. He form'd a line & a plummet  
To divide the Abyss beneath.  
He form'd a dividing rule:

8. He form'd scales to weigh:  
He form'd many weights:  
He form'd a brass quadrant:  
He form'd golden compasses  
And began to explore the Abyss  
And he plant'd a garden of Fruits

9. But Loos encircled Enitharmon  
With lines of Prophecy  
From the sight of Urizen & Ore.

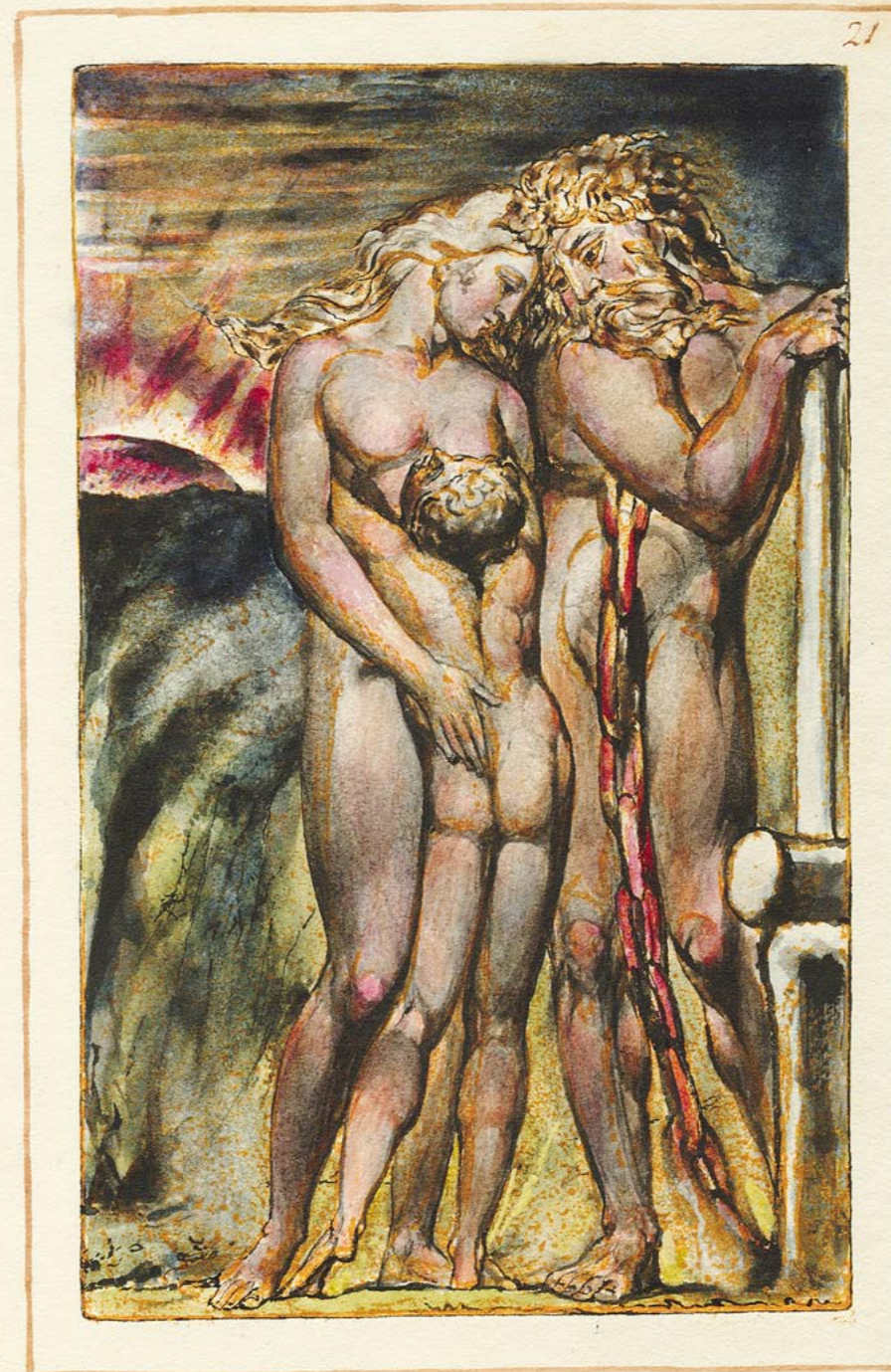
10. And she bore an enormous race

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: Farms













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Chap: IX

The Ox in the slaughter house moans  
The Dog at the wainey door  
And he howls, & he calls it Pity  
And his tears flow down in the mud  
And his bones are in the mud  
Cold he wanders on high, over  
their cities  
He weeps & pain, as woe!  
And where ever he wanders in sorrows  
Upon the aged heavens  
A cold shadow follow'd behind him  
Like a spiders web, most cold, he dunt  
Drawing out from his sorrowing soul  
The darkness like heaven dividing  
Where ever the footsteps of Urizen  
Walk'd over the cities in sorrow.

1. Till a Web dark & 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 fire.

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

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

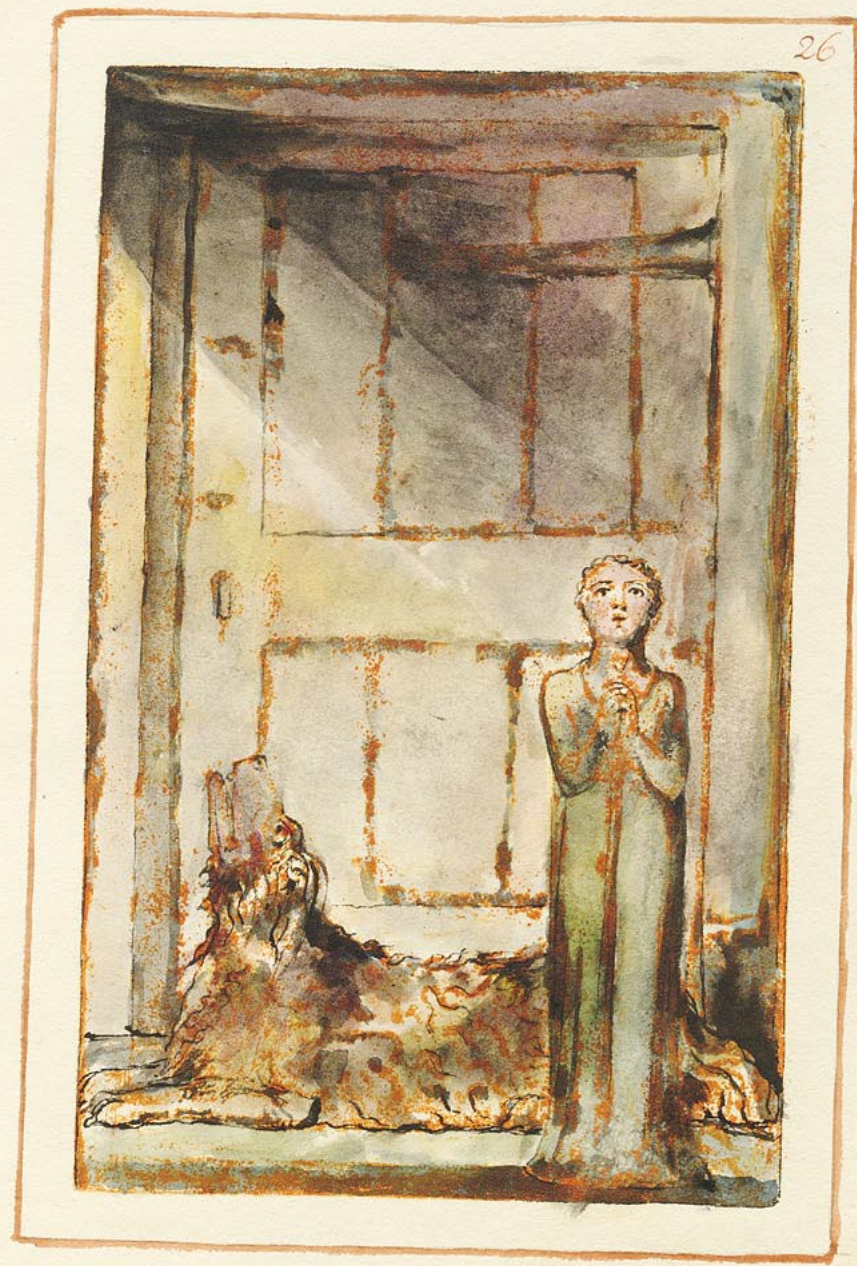
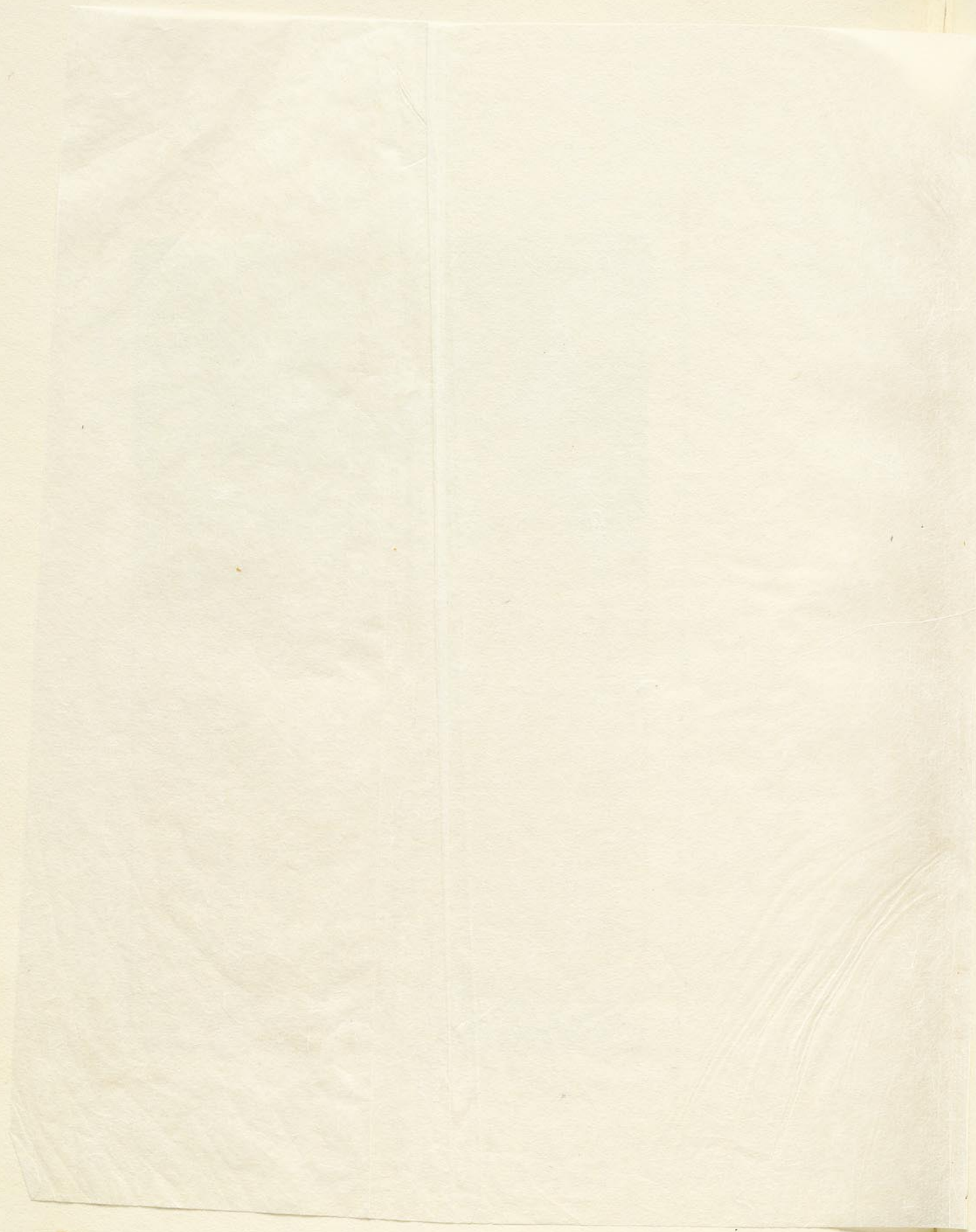
Then the Inhabitants of these Cities,  
Felt their Nerves charge into Marrow  
And hurriedly Bones began  
In swift diseases and torments,  
In throbings & shootings & grindings  
Thro all the coasts; all weaken'd  
The Senses inward rush'd, shrinking,  
Beneath the dark net of infection.

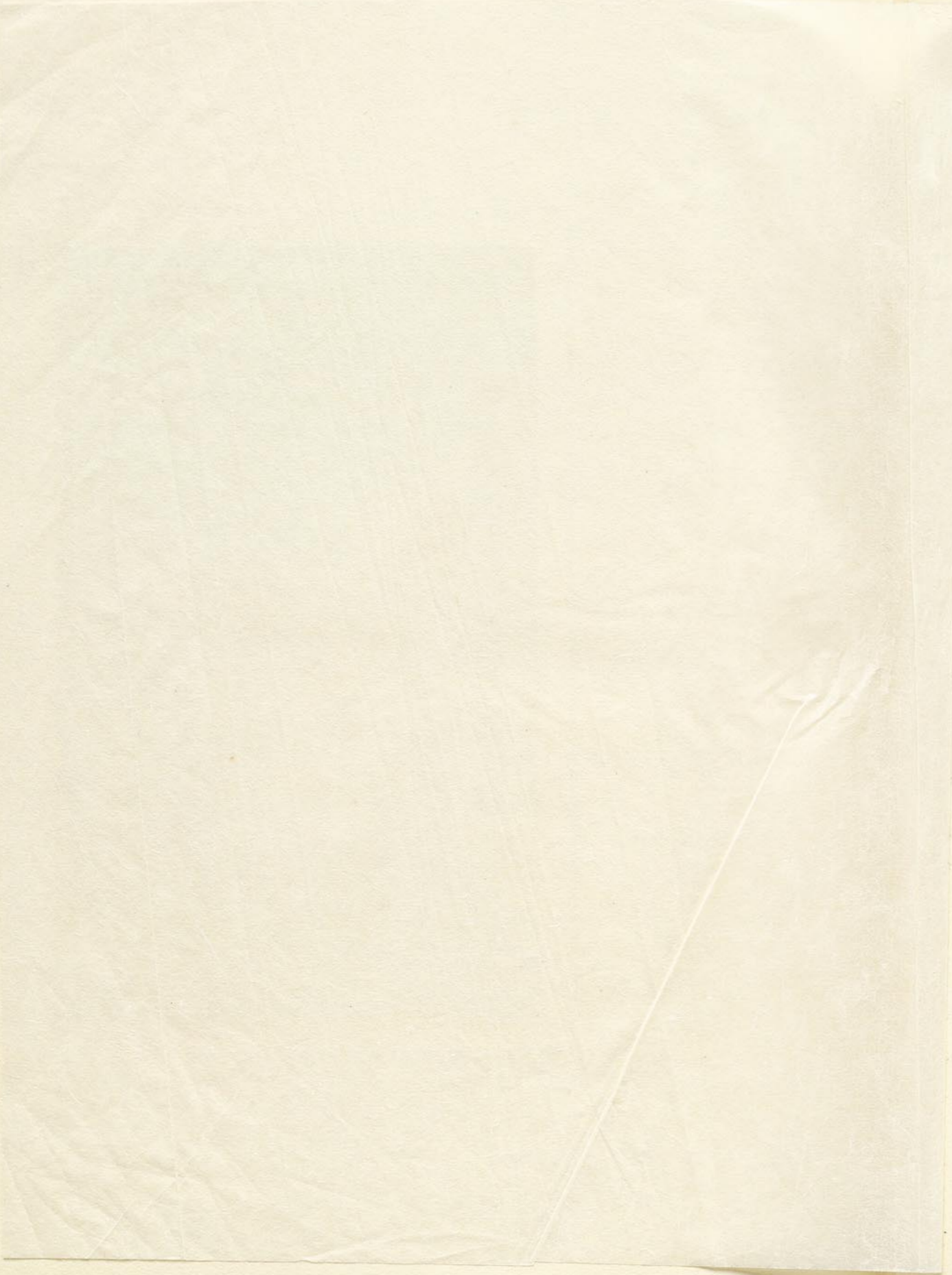
4. Till the shranken eyes clouded over  
Discein'd not the vevier hypocrisy  
But the stretchy slins in their heavens  
Brought together by narrowing perceptions  
Appear'd transparent air; for their eyes  
Grew small like the eyes of a man  
And in reptile forms shrinking together  
Of seven feet stature they remain'd

5. Six days they shrunk up from existence  
And on the seventh day they rested  
And they blest the seventh day, in sick  
hope;

6. And forgot their eternal life

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





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Urizen CXX

They lived a period of years  
Then left a noisom body  
To the jaws of devouring darkness

5. And their children wept, & built  
Tombs in the desolate places.  
And firm'd laws of prudence, and  
call'd them  
The eternal laws of God

6. And the thirty cities remain'd  
Surrounded by salt floods, now call'd  
Africa: its name was then Egypt.

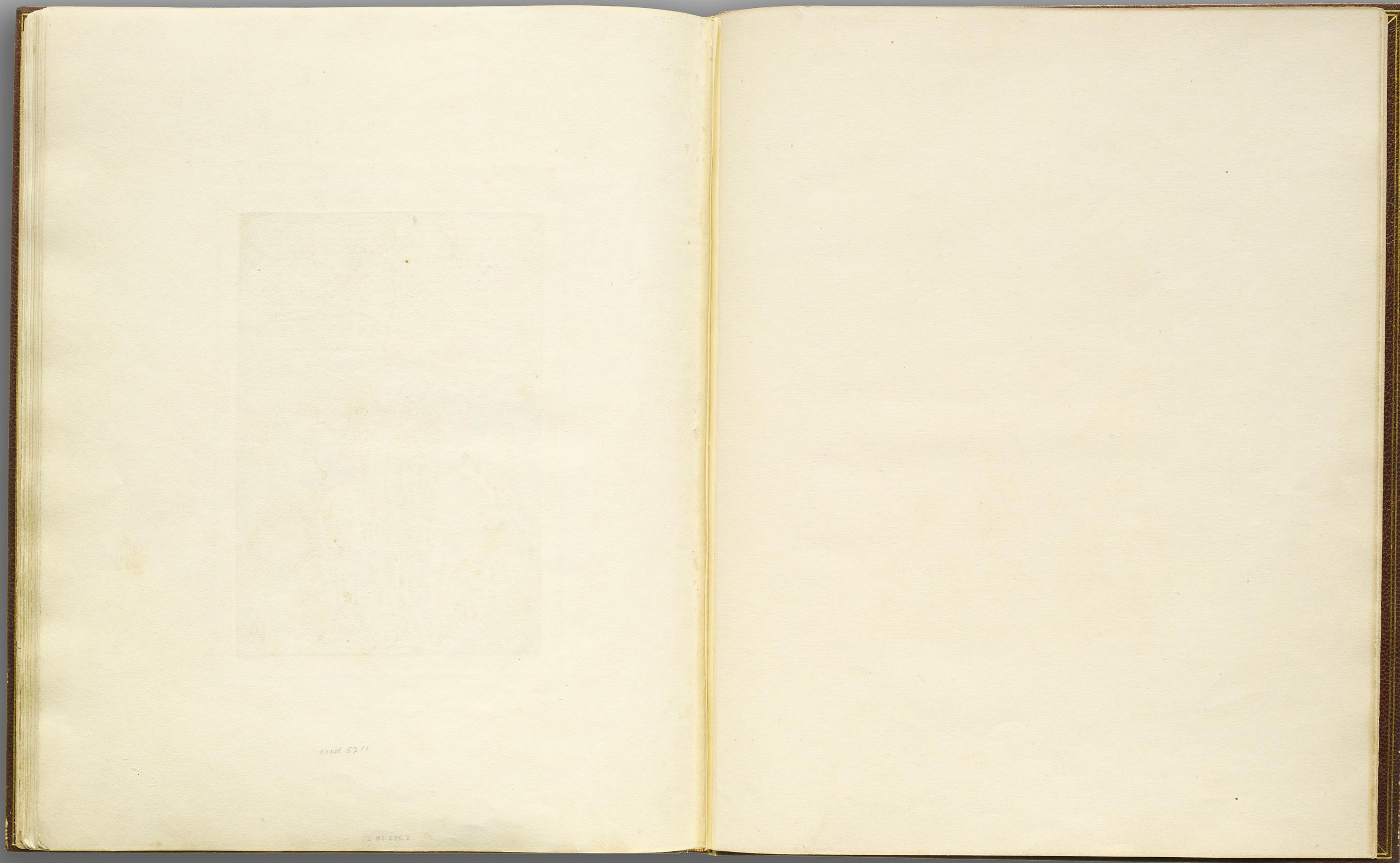
7. The remaining sons of Urizen  
Beheld their brethren shrink together  
Beneath the Net of Urizen:  
Persuasion was in vain.

For the suns of the inhabitants  
Were wither'd & deaden'd, & cold:  
And their eyes could not discern:  
Their brethren of other cities.

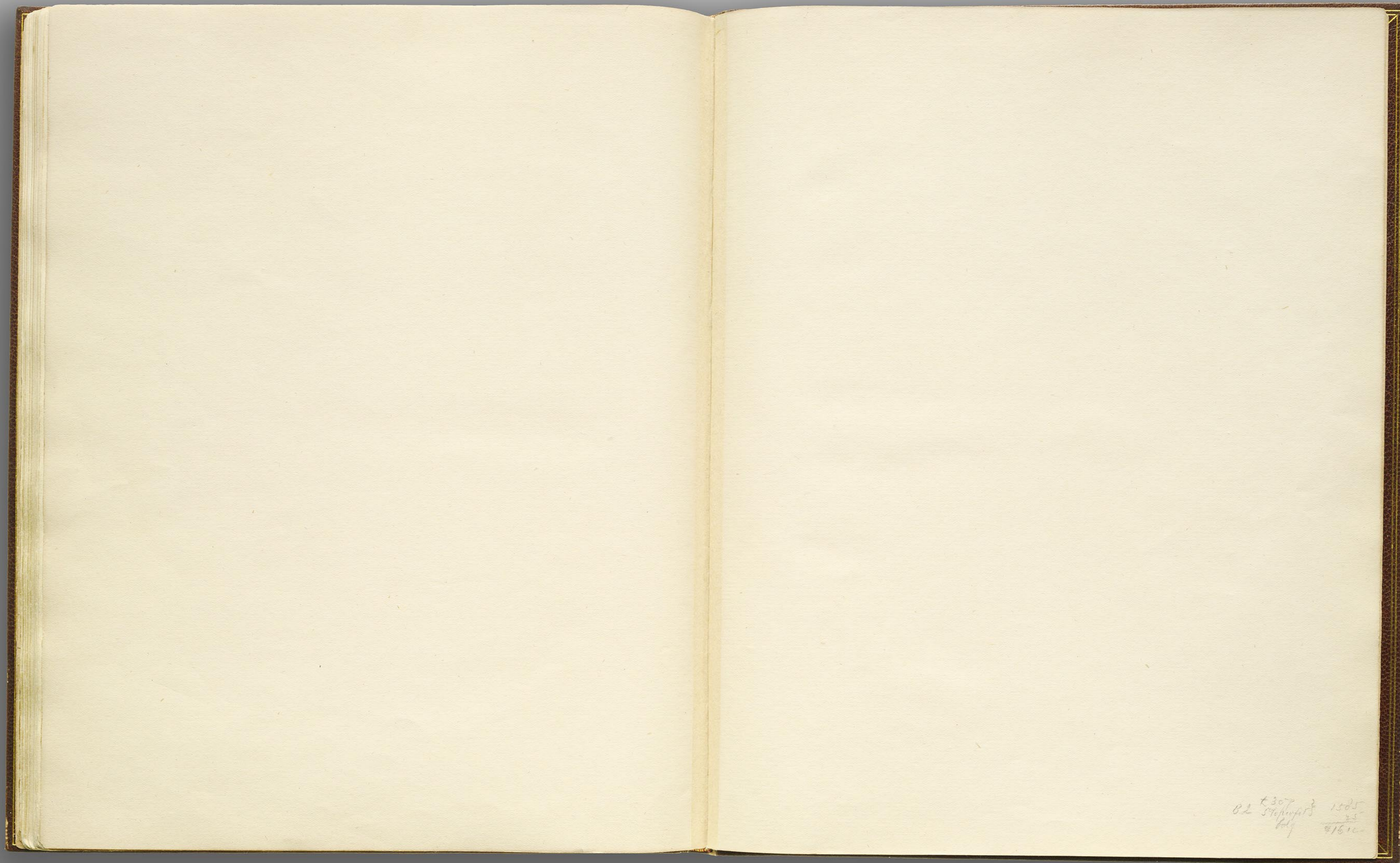
8. So Urizen call'd all together  
The remaining children of Urizen:  
And they left the pendulous north:  
They call'd it Egypt, & left it.

9. And the salt ocean rolled as flood

The End of the  
book of Urizen







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