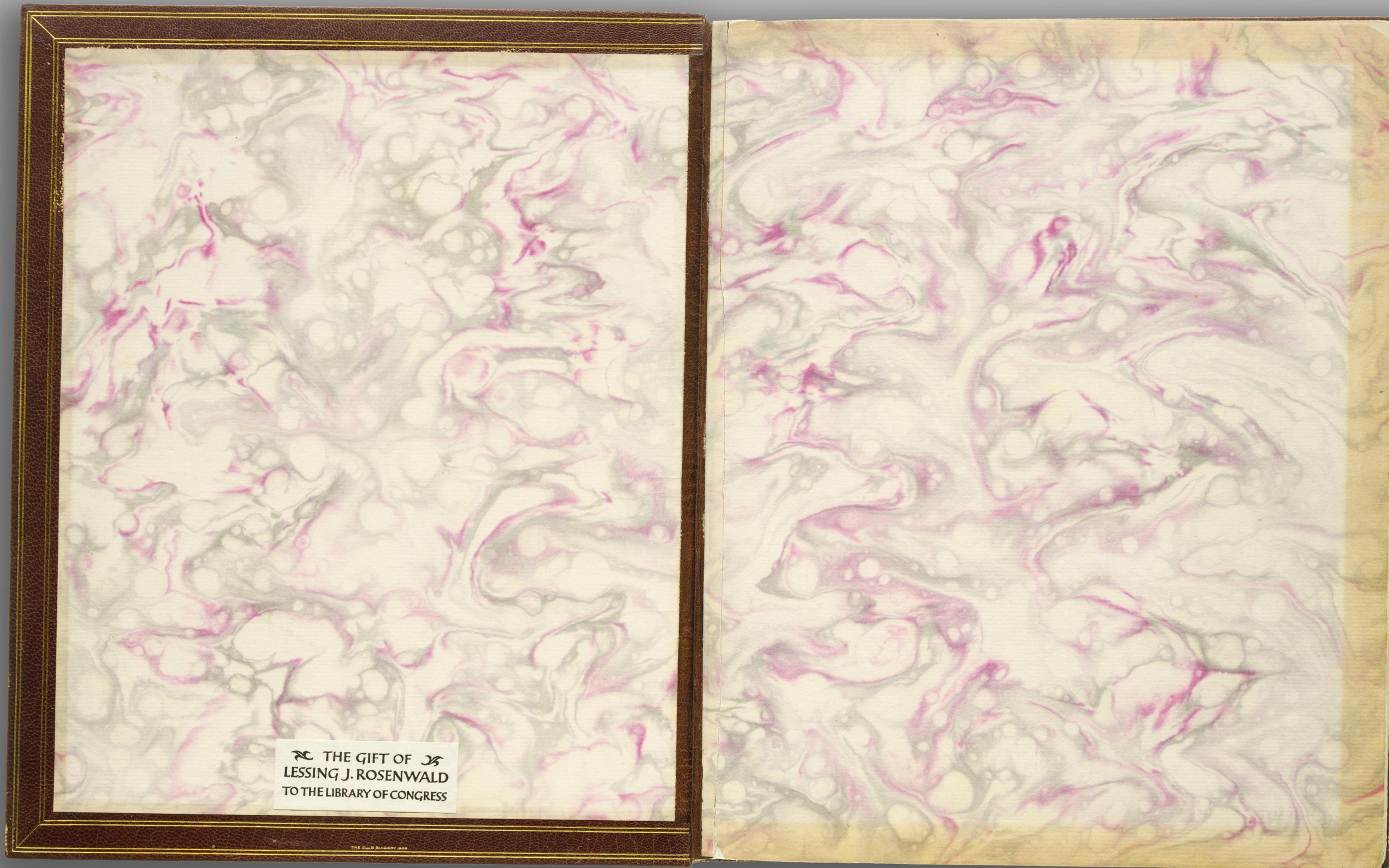




William Blake *The Book of Urizen* London, ca. 1818 **Octavo** VIEW 1 of 35

THE LESSING J. ROSENWALD COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



THE GIFT OF
LESSING J. ROSENWALD
TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

William Blake *The Book of Urizen* London, ca. 1818 **Octavo** VIEW 2 of 35

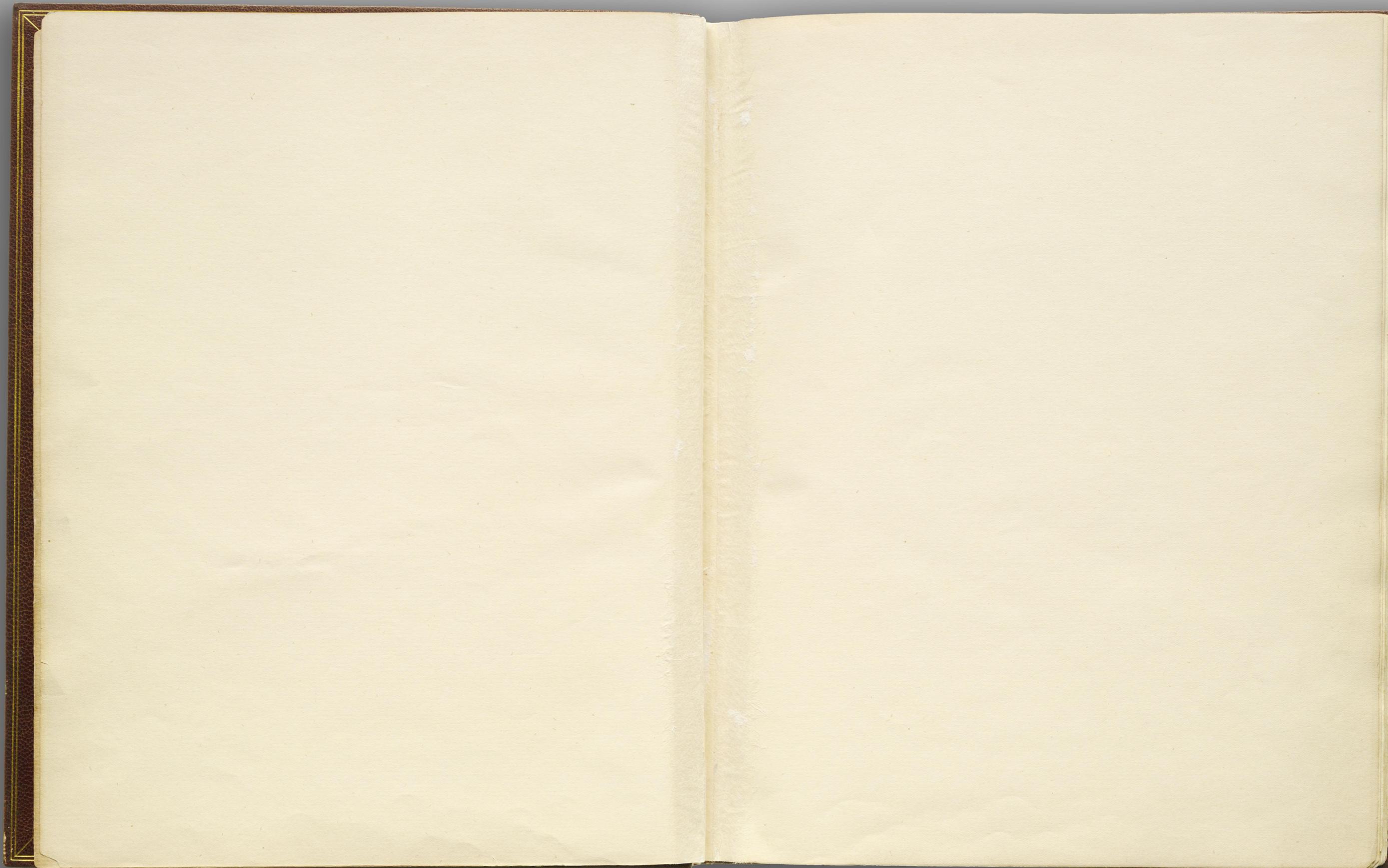
THE LESSING J. ROSENWALD COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

22704

Set by B. L. Col
back of Green Sale (copy of Honorable Willms)

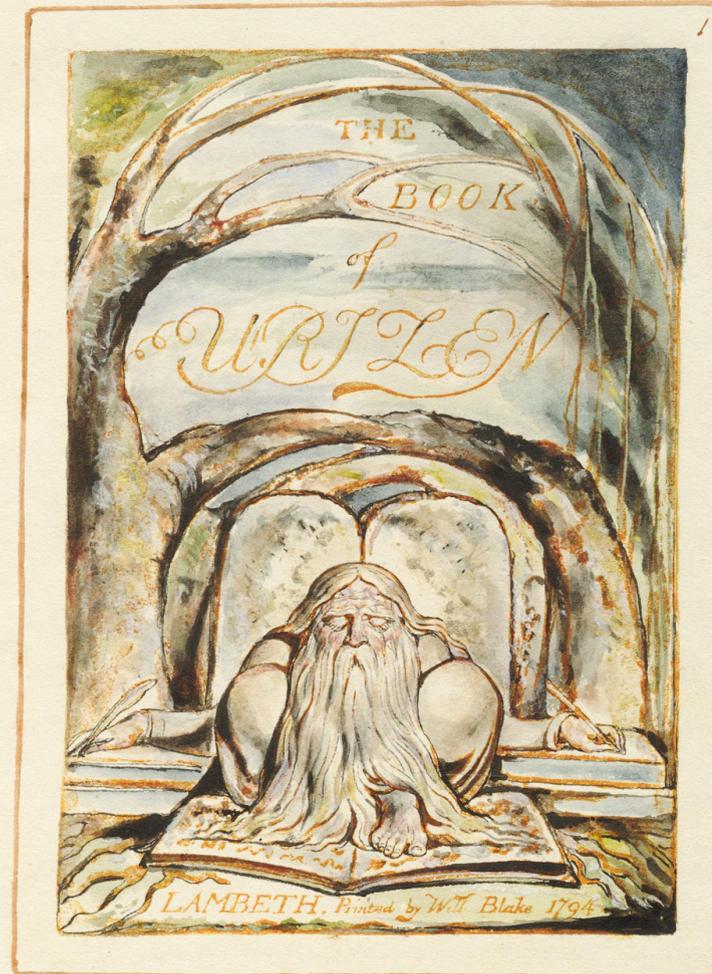
water mark 1815

W. L. Miller
Apr 20 1903



William Blake *The Book of Urizen* London, ca. 1818 **Octavo** VIEW 4 of 35

THE LESSING J. ROSENWALD COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



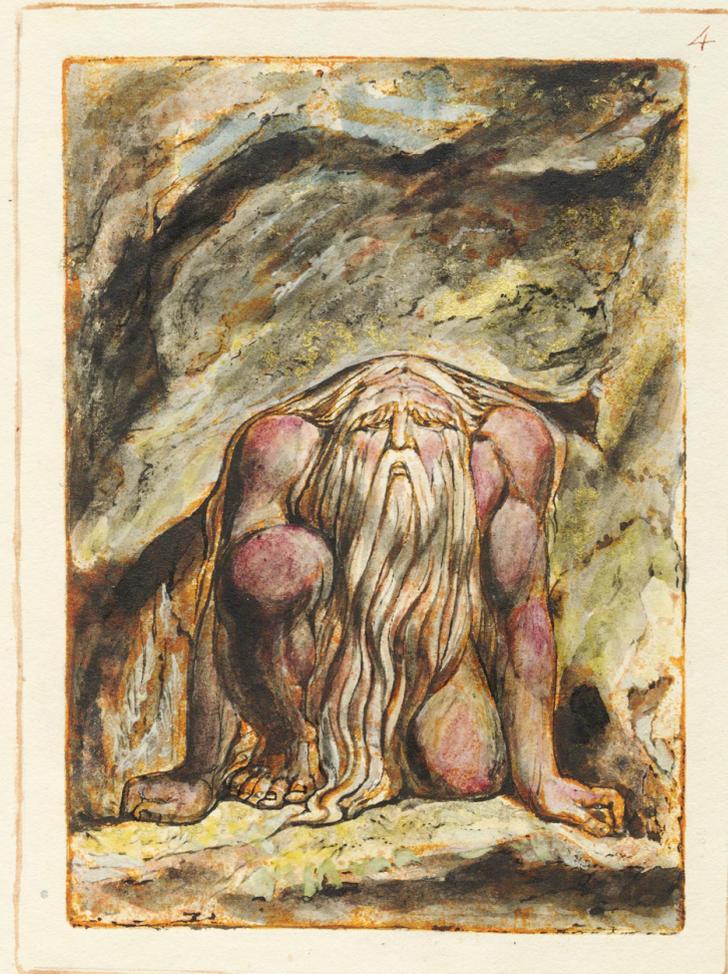
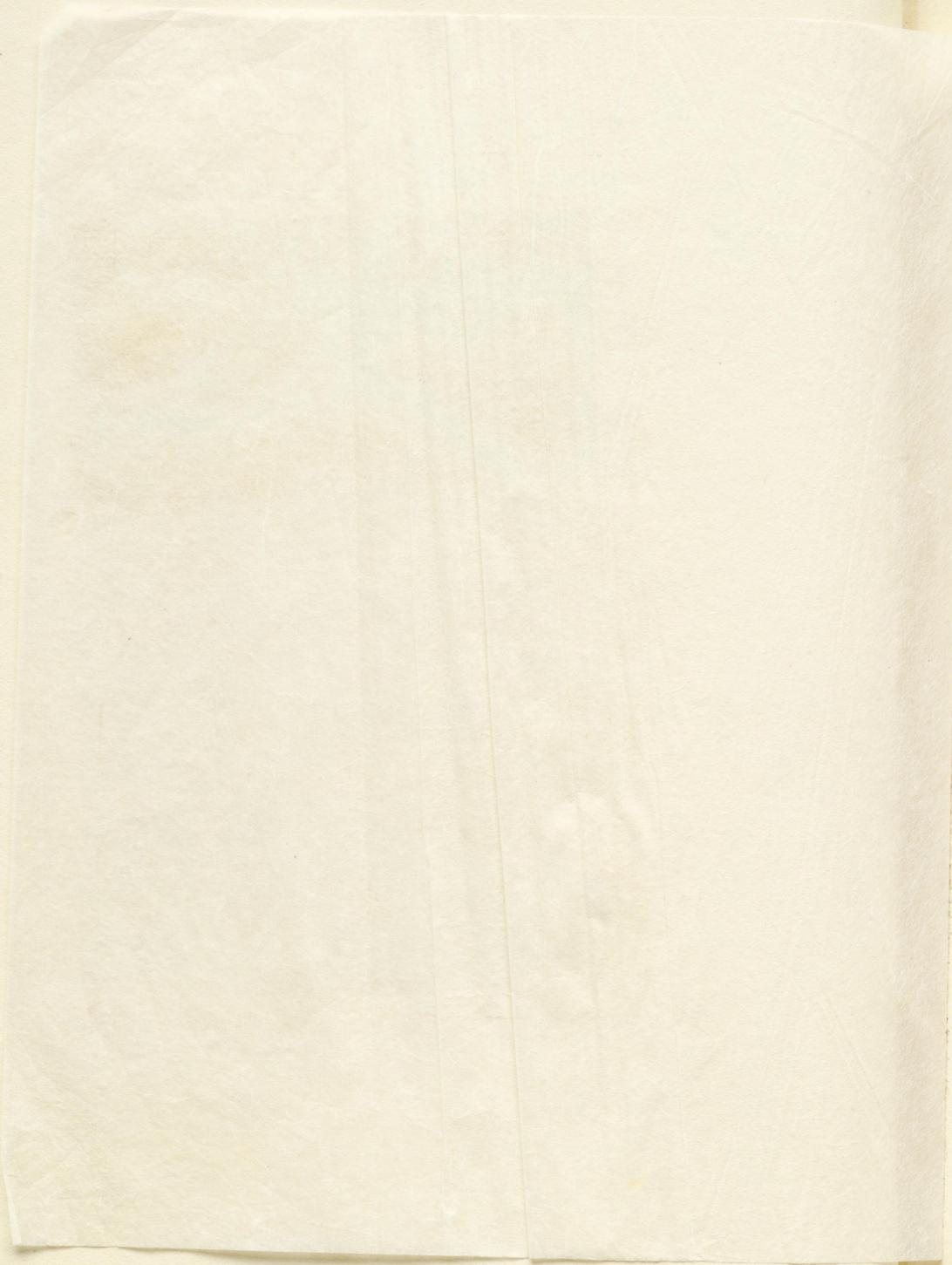




Chap: I
1. Lo, a shadow of horror is risen
In Eternity; link'd with, unprolific?
Self-clos'd, all-repelling; what Demon
Hath form'd this abominable void?
This soul-shudd'ring vacuum? Some
Le is Urizen, But unknown, abstracted
Devoting secret, the dark power hid
2. Times on times he divid'd, & measur'd
In his hills of stur'd snow, in his
Inseer, unknown: changes appear'd
In his desolate mountains rid'd furious
By his black words of perturbation
3. For he strove in battles dire
In unseen confusions with shapes
By'd from his forsaken wilderness
Combustion, blast, vapour and cloud
4. Dark revolving in silent activity
Inseer in tormenting passions;
An activity unknown and horrible
A self-contemplating shadow,
In enormous labours occupied

5. But Eternals behold his vast forests
As on eyes he lay, clos'd, unknown,
Brooding shut in the deep; all avoid
The petrific abominable chaos
6. His cold horrors silent, dark Urizen
Prepar'd; his ten thousands of thunders
Rang'd in gleam'd away stretch out across
The dread world, & the rolling of wheels
As of swalling eyes, 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 cloud blazes over the harvest
7. Earth was not; nor glazes of attrition
The will of the Immortal expanded
Or contracted his all flexible senses
Death was not, but eternal life sprung
8. The sound of a trumpet the heavens
Awoke & vast clouds of blood roll'd
Round the dim rocks of Urizen, so nam'd
That solitary one in loneliness
9. Shall the trumpet; & cryings of the

Chap: II





In living creations appeared
In the flames of eternal fury.
3. Sounding, darkening, thundering,
Went away with a terrible crash,
Eternity rolled wide apart,
Wide asunder rolling
Mountains all around
Departing; departing; departing;
Leaving ruinous fragments of life
Hanging from cliffs & all between
In ocean of winds undisturbable.

To the deserts and rocks he roll'd
To hide, but he could not; combining
He dug mountains & hills in vast strength
He piled them in incessant labour,
In howlings & pangs & fierce madly
Long periods in burning fires labouring
Till hoary, and eye-brake, and aged
In despair and the shadows of death.

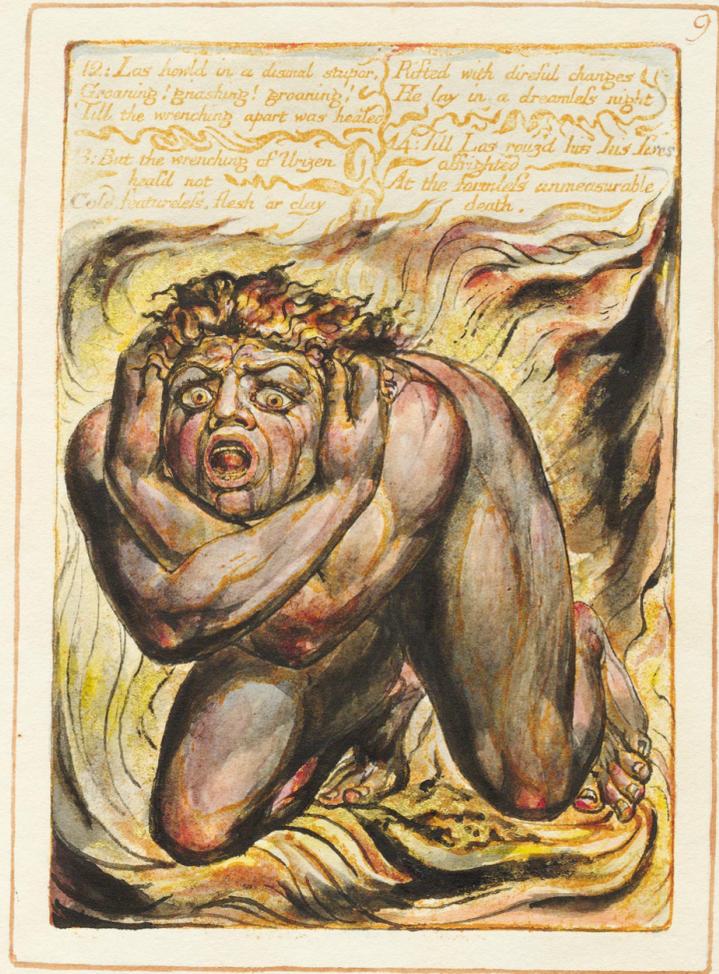
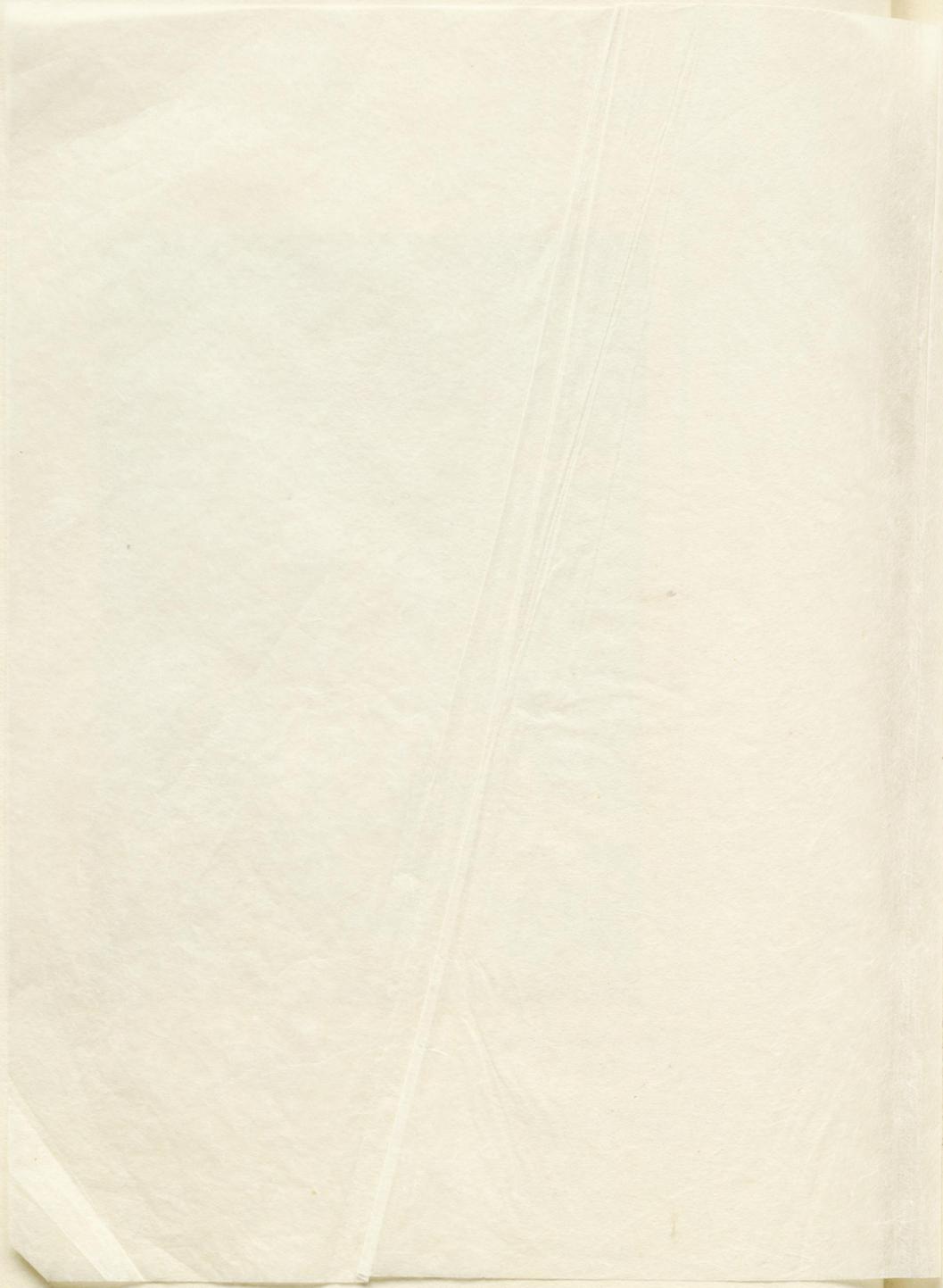
And a roof vast set the ground
On all sides he fringed: like a ramp
Where thousands of rivers in vain
Of blood pour down the mountains to cool
The eternal fires' beating without
From Eternals; & like a black globe
View'd by sons of Eternity, standing
On the shore of the infinite ocean
Like a human heart, struggling & beating
The vast world of Urizen appeared.

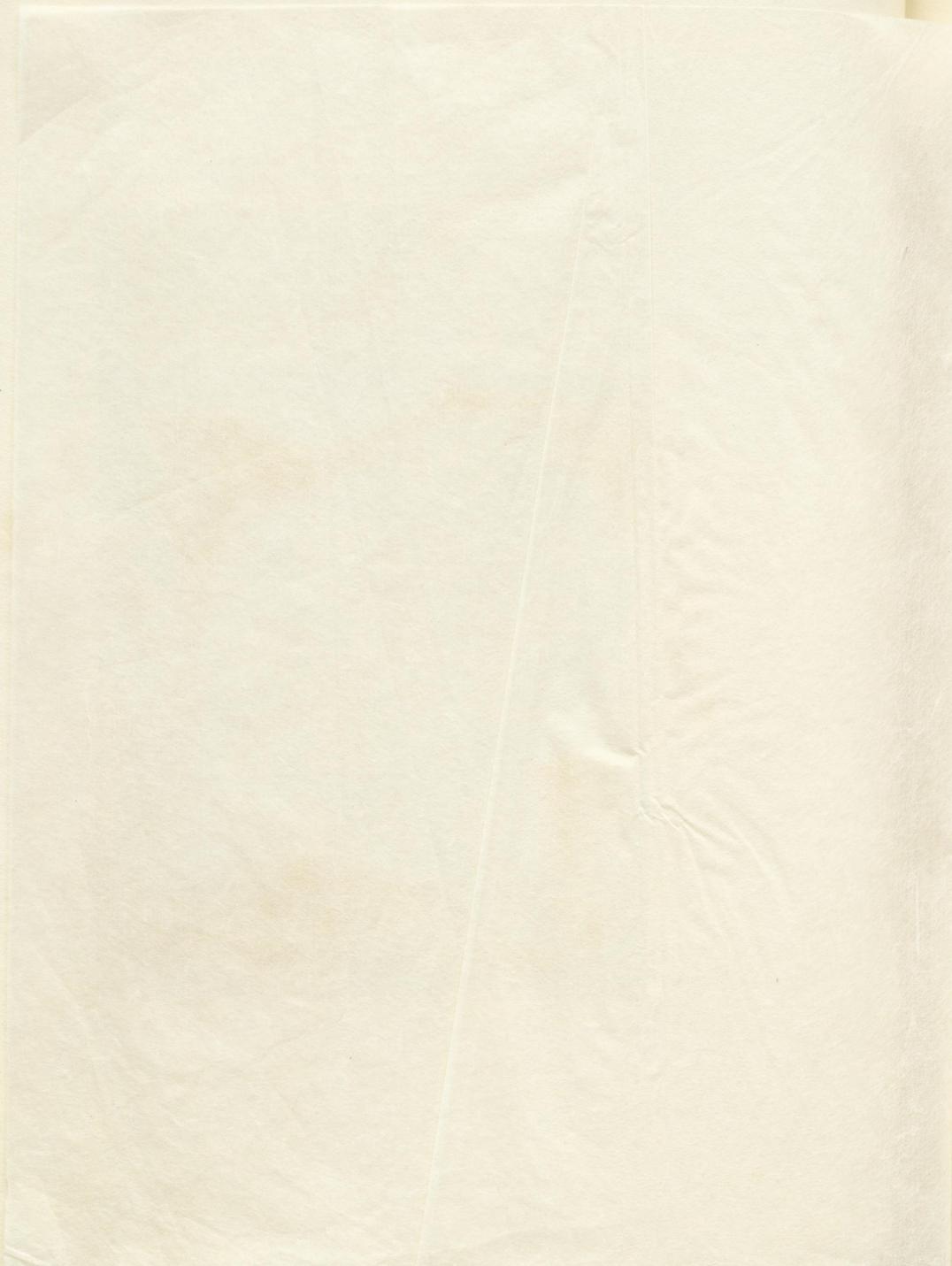
5. But no light from the fires, all was
darkness
In the flames of Eternal fury
6. In fierce anguish & quenchless
flames

3. And Los round the dark globe of
Urizen
Kept watch for Eternals to confine,
The obscure separation alone;
For Eternity stood wide apart.





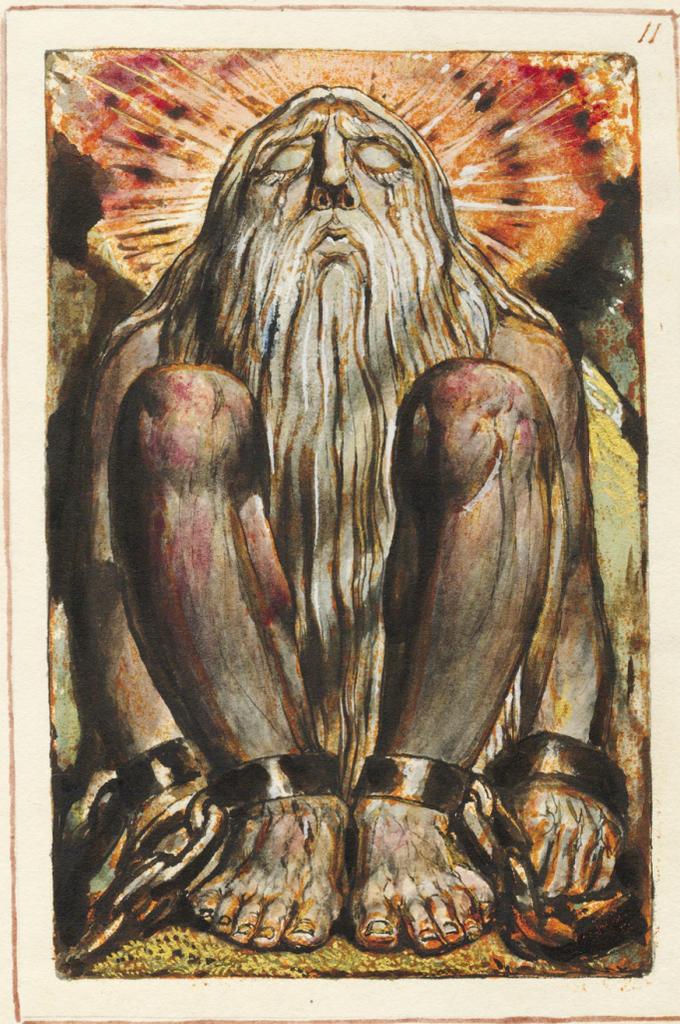


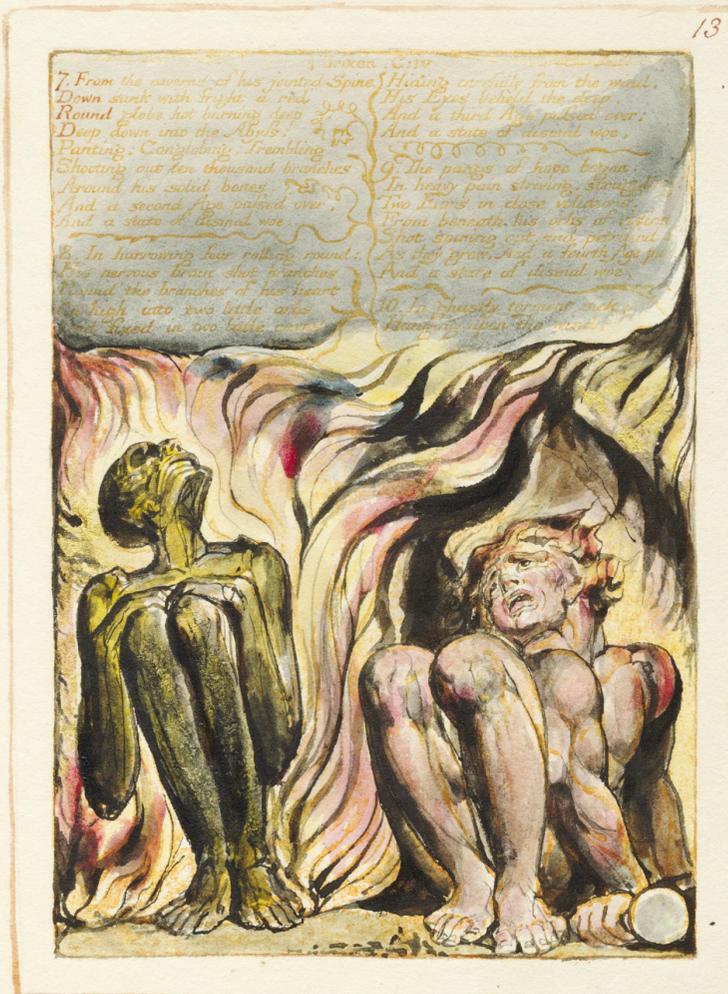
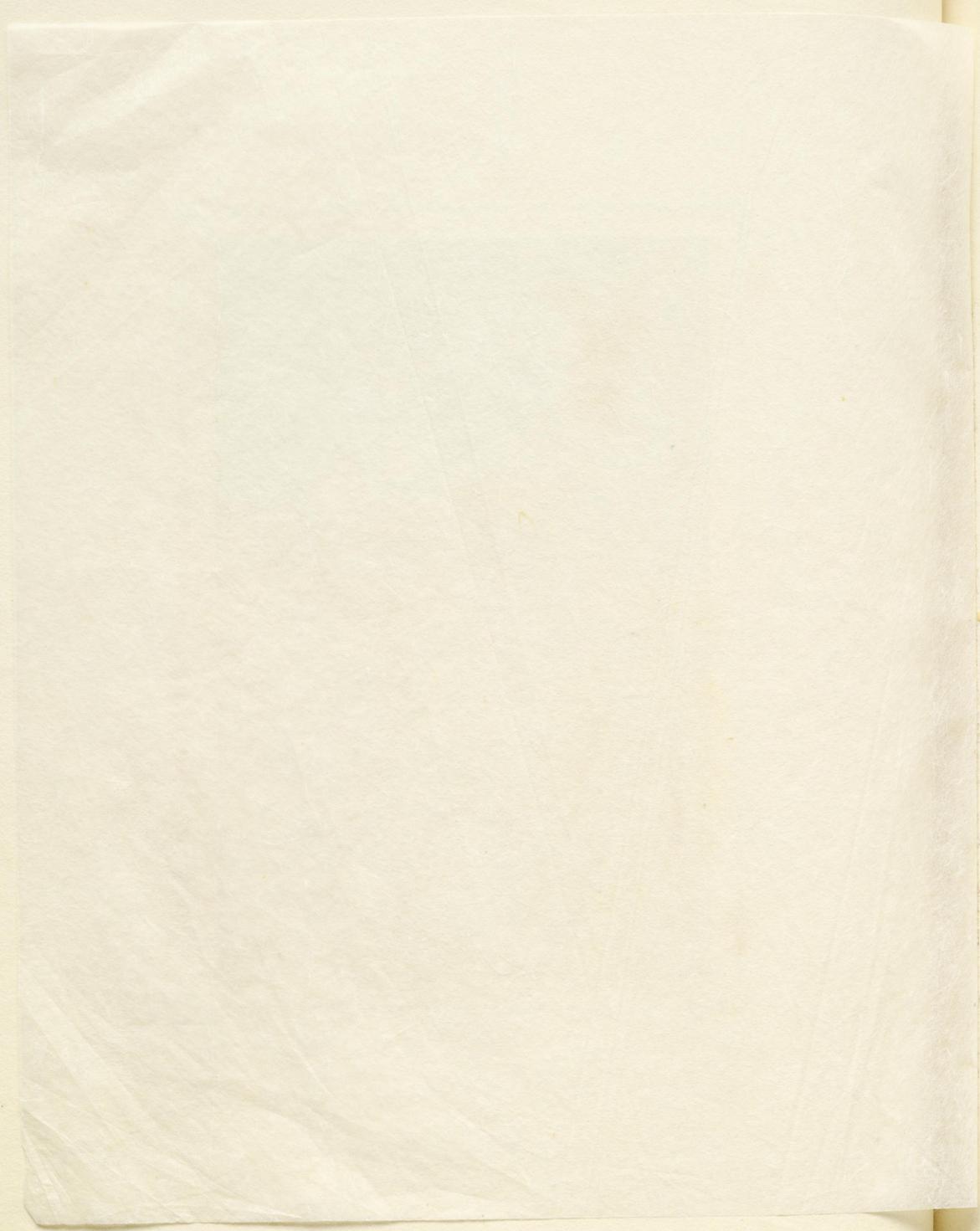


10

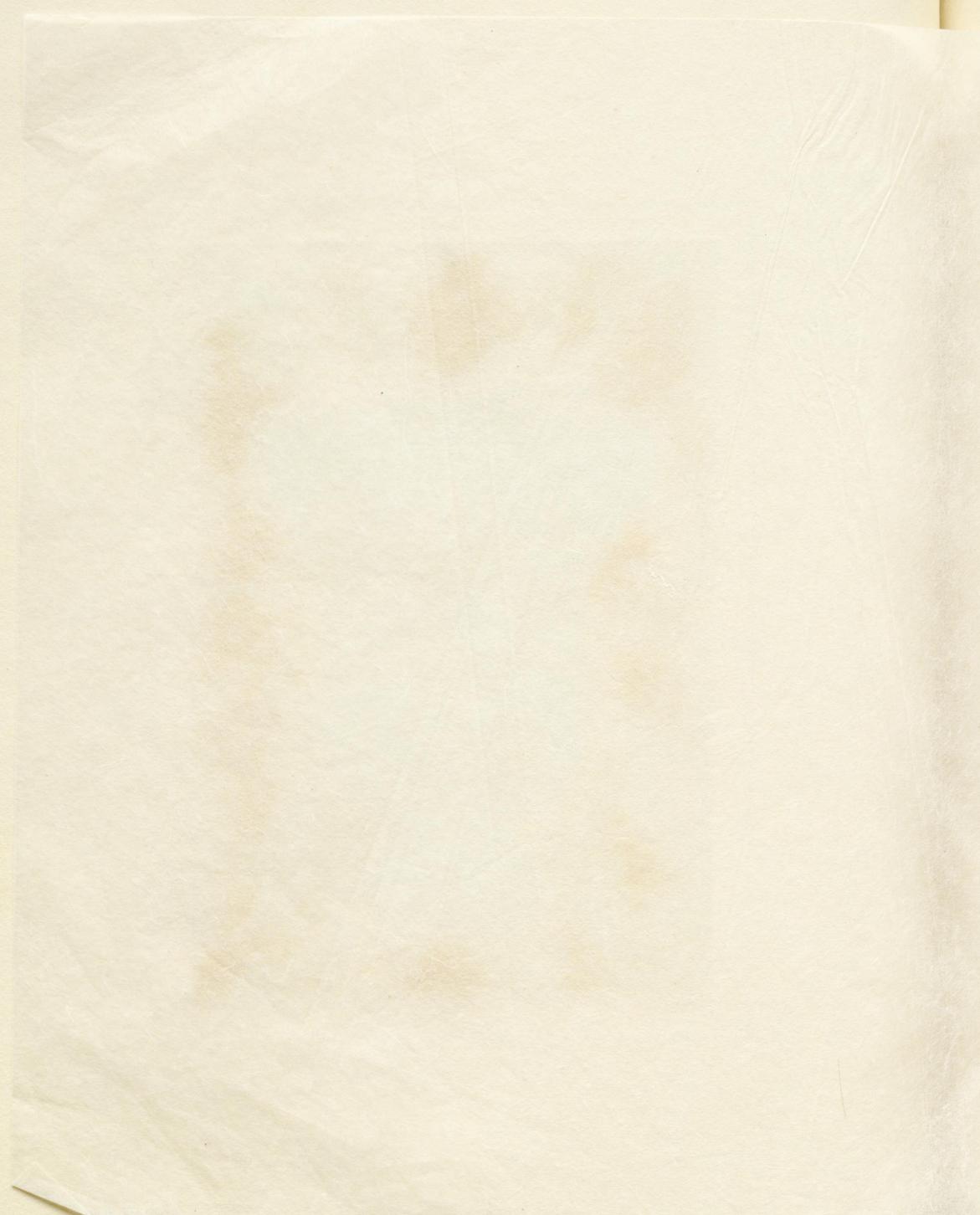
Chap: IV: -ment

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: In whirlwinds & pitch & nitre Round the furious limbs of Lias	6: And these were the changes of Urizen









15

Urizen G: V.

Two Nastrils bent down to the deep, In trembling & tumbling & 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; 1. In terrors Los shrunk from his
Within his ribs bloated round. taste;
A craving Hungry Cavern: His great hammer fell from his hand;
Thence arose his channel'd Throat: His fires beheld, and sickening;
And like a red flame a Tongue His tires beheld, and sickening;
Of thirst & of hunger appear'd: And their strong limbs in snakes.
And a sixth Age pass'd over: For with noises ruinous loud;
And a state of dismal woe. With hurtings & dashings & groans
The Immortal endur'd his chains,
12. Enraged & stifled with torment Tho bound in a deadly sleep.
He threw his right Arm to the north
His left Arm to the south. 2. All the myriads of Eternity,
Shooting out in anguish deep. All the wisdom & joy of life:
And his Feet stamp'd the nether Abyss Roll like a sea around him.



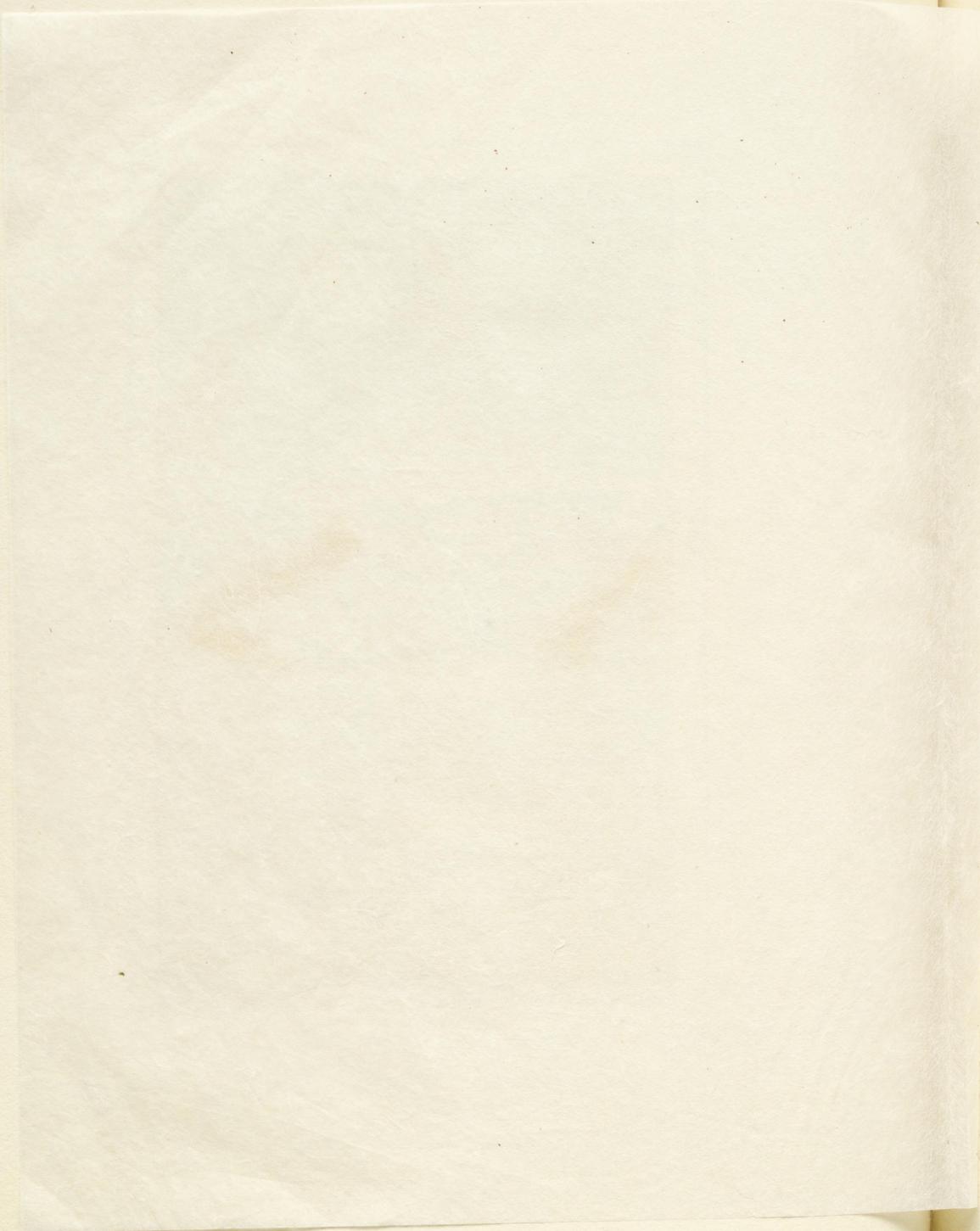
Except what his little orbs Then he look'd back with anxious desire
Of sight by degrees unfold. But the space undivided by existence
Struck horror into his soul.

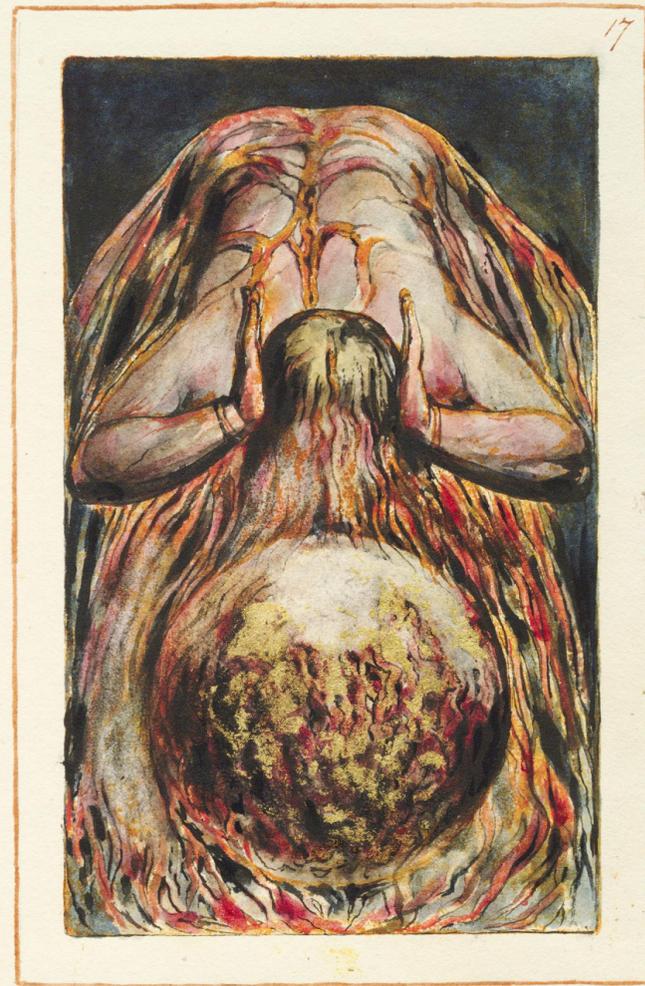
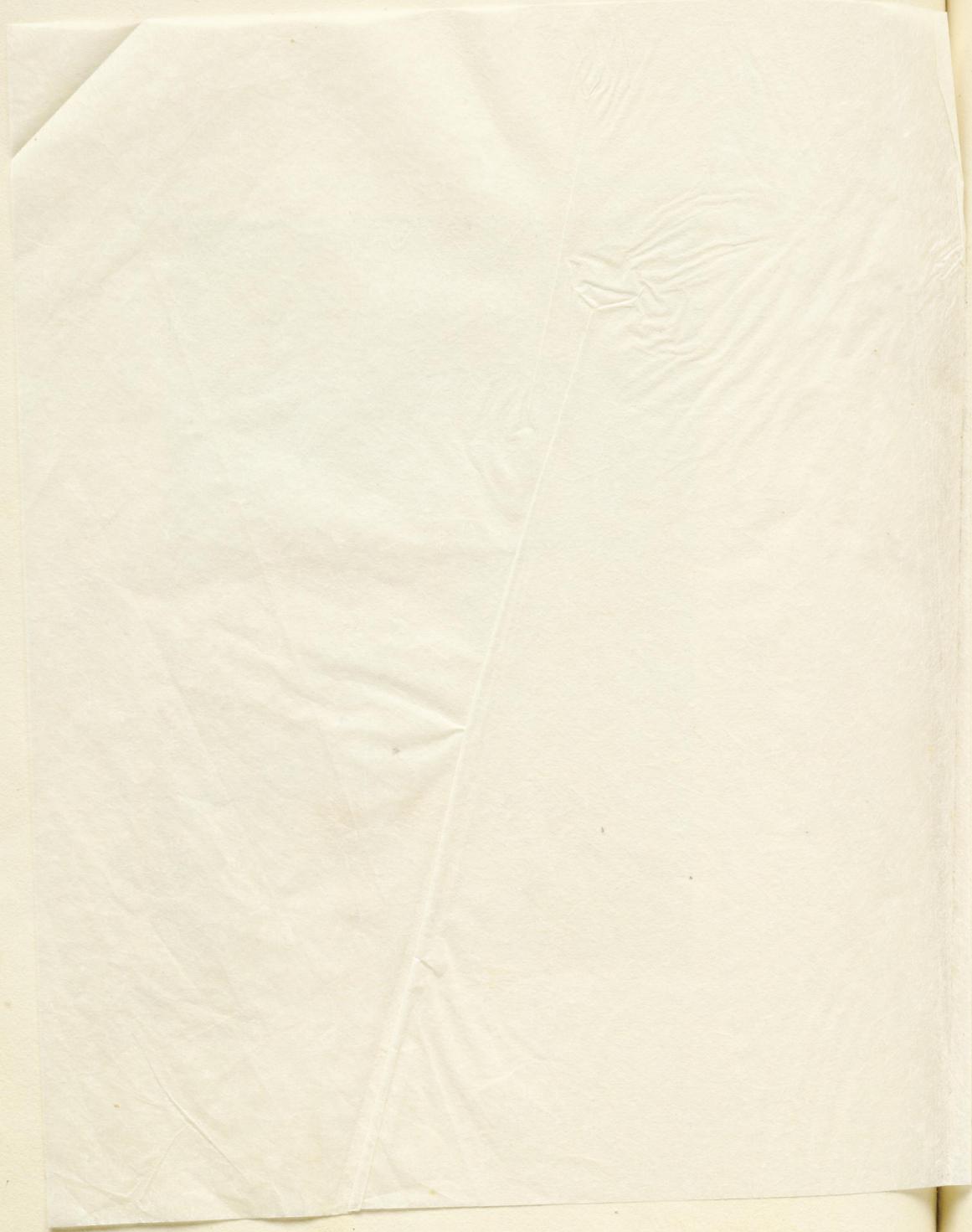
3. And now his eternal life Like a dream was obliterated. 6. Los wept obscurely with mourning;
His bosom earthquak'd with sighs.

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

The bellows & hammer are silent now In anguish dividing & dividing
A nerveless silence, his prophetic voice For pity divides the soul
Staid; a cold solitude & dark void In purg'd eternity on eternity
The Eternal Prophet & Urizen clos'd Life in cataracts pour'd down his
class

5. Ages on ages roll'd over them The void shrunk the lymph into nerves
Cut all from life & light frozen 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 die Trembling upon the Void









19

They call'd her Pea, and Red 11

11. Spread a Tent with strong curtains around them
Let cards & stakes bind in the Void
That Eternals may no more behold them

12. They began to weave curtains of darkness
They erected large pillars round the Void
With golden hooks fasten'd in the pillars
With indurate labour the Eternals
A wail arose, and call'd it Science

Chap: VI

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

2. Eternals shudder'd when they saw
Man begotting his Womans
On his own divided 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 worm lay till it grew to a serpent
With dolorous hissing & poisons
Round Enitharmons loins winding

6. Coild within Enitharmons womb
The serpent grew casting its scales
With sharp pain's the hissing began
To change to a grating cry
Many sorrows and dismal throes
Many furies of flesh, bird & beast
Brought forth an Infant form
Where was a worm before

7. The Eternals their tent finished
Alarm'd with these gloomy visions
When Enitharmon groaning
Produc'd a man Child to the light

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

9. Delving earth in his resistless way
Howling the Child with fierce flames
Issud from Enitharmon

10. The Eternals, clos'd the tent
They beat down the stakes the cards

Urizen C. VII

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

11. In his hands he seized the infant
He bathed him in springs of sorrow
He gave him to Enitharmon.

Chap. VII.

1. They named the child Orc, he grew
Fed with milk of Enitharmon.

2. Los awoke her, O sorrow & pain,
A lightning girdle grew
Around his bosom. In sobbings
He burst the girdle in twain.
But still another girdle
Overset his bosom. In sobbings
Again he burst it. Again
Another girdle succeeds.
The girdle was burst by day,
By night was burst in twain.

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

4. They took Orc 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

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 Urizen quadrant:
He form'd golden compasses
And began to explore the Abyss
And he plant'd a garden of Fruits

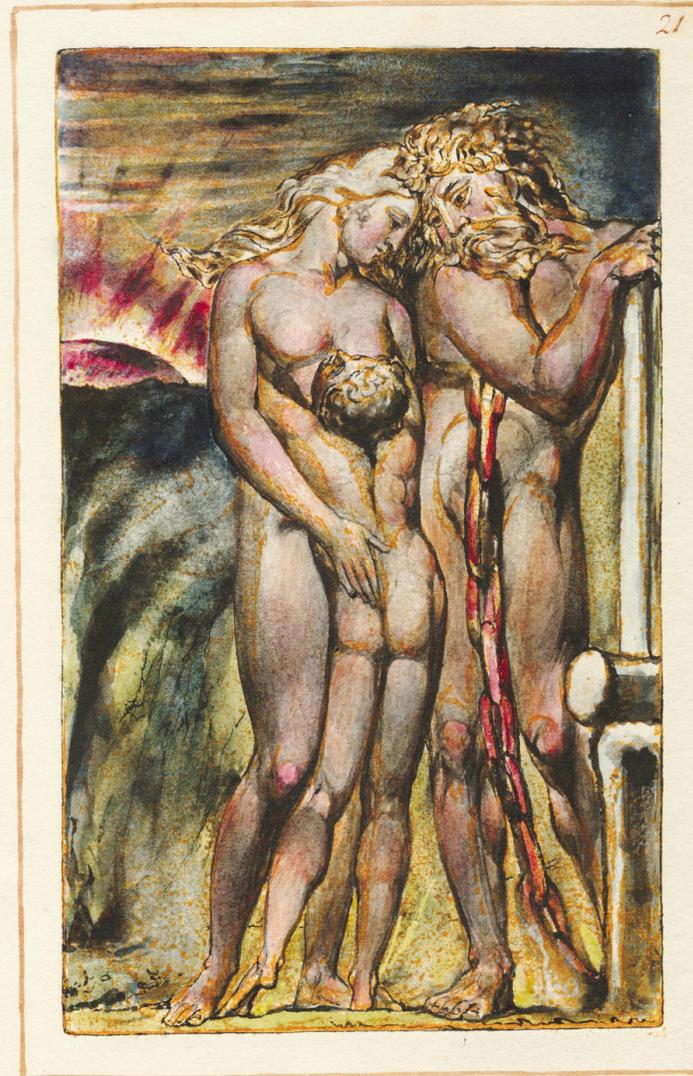
9. But Los encircled Enitharmon
With fires of Prophecy
From the sight of Urizen & Orc.

10. And she bore an enormous race

Chap. VIII.

1. Urizen explor'd his dens
Mountain, moor, & wildernels,
With a globe of fire lighting his
journey
A fearful journey, annoy'd
By cruel enormities: Farms

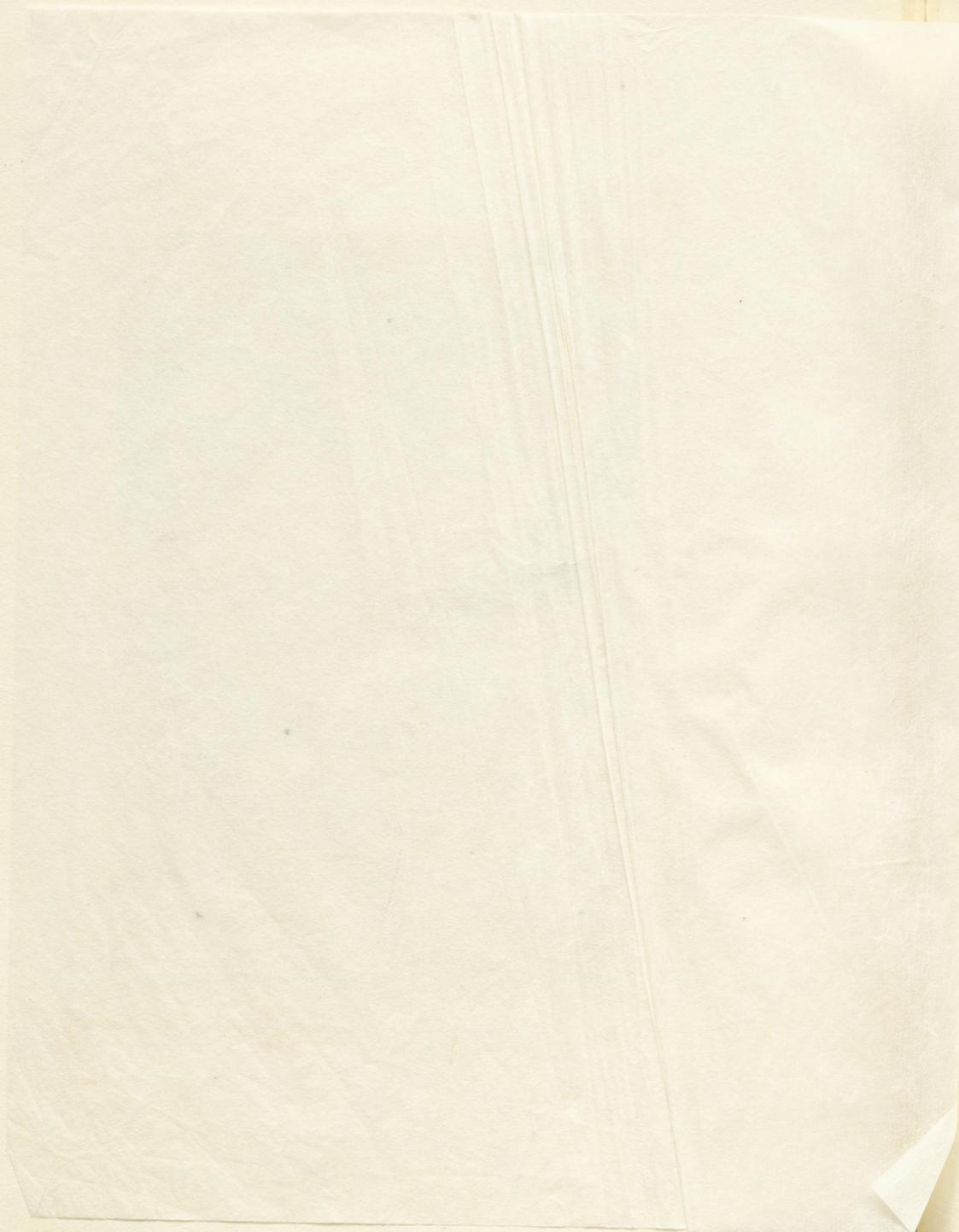












Chap: IX

The Ox in the slaughter house moans
 The Dog at the wainy door
 And he weeps, & he calls it Pity
 And his tears flow'd down on the mead
 Cold he wand'ring on high, over
 Their cities
 In weeping & pain as woe!
 And where'er he wand'ers in sorrows
 Upon the aged heavens
 A cold shadow follow'd behind him
 Like a spiders web, most cold, he dur'd
 Drawing out from his sorrowing soul
 The dungeon-like heaven dividing
 Where'er the footsteps of Urizen
 Walk'd over the cities in sorrow.

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

2. Till the shranken eyes clouded over
 Discern'd not the jovial hypocrisy
 But the steady slane in their heavens
 Brought together by narrowing perceptions
 Appair'd transparent air; for their eyes
 Grew small like the eyes of a war
 And in reptile forms shrinking together
 At seven foot statues they remain'd

3. Six days they shrunk up from existence
 And on the seventh day they rested
 And they blest the seventh day, in sick
 hope;
 And forgot their eternal life

4. And their thirty cities divided
 In form of a human heart
 No more could they rise at will
 In the indirect void, but bound down
 To earth by their narrowing perceptions

5. 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.

6. So twisted the cords, & so louted
 The meshes; twisted like to the
 human brain

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



Urizen. CXX

They lived a period of years
Then left a noisom body
To the jaws of devouring darkness
For the curs of the inhabitants
Were witherd & deadend, & cold
And their eyes could not discern
Their brethren of other cities

5. And their children wept, & built
Tombs in the desolate places.
And firmid laws of prudence, and
callid them
The eternal laws of God

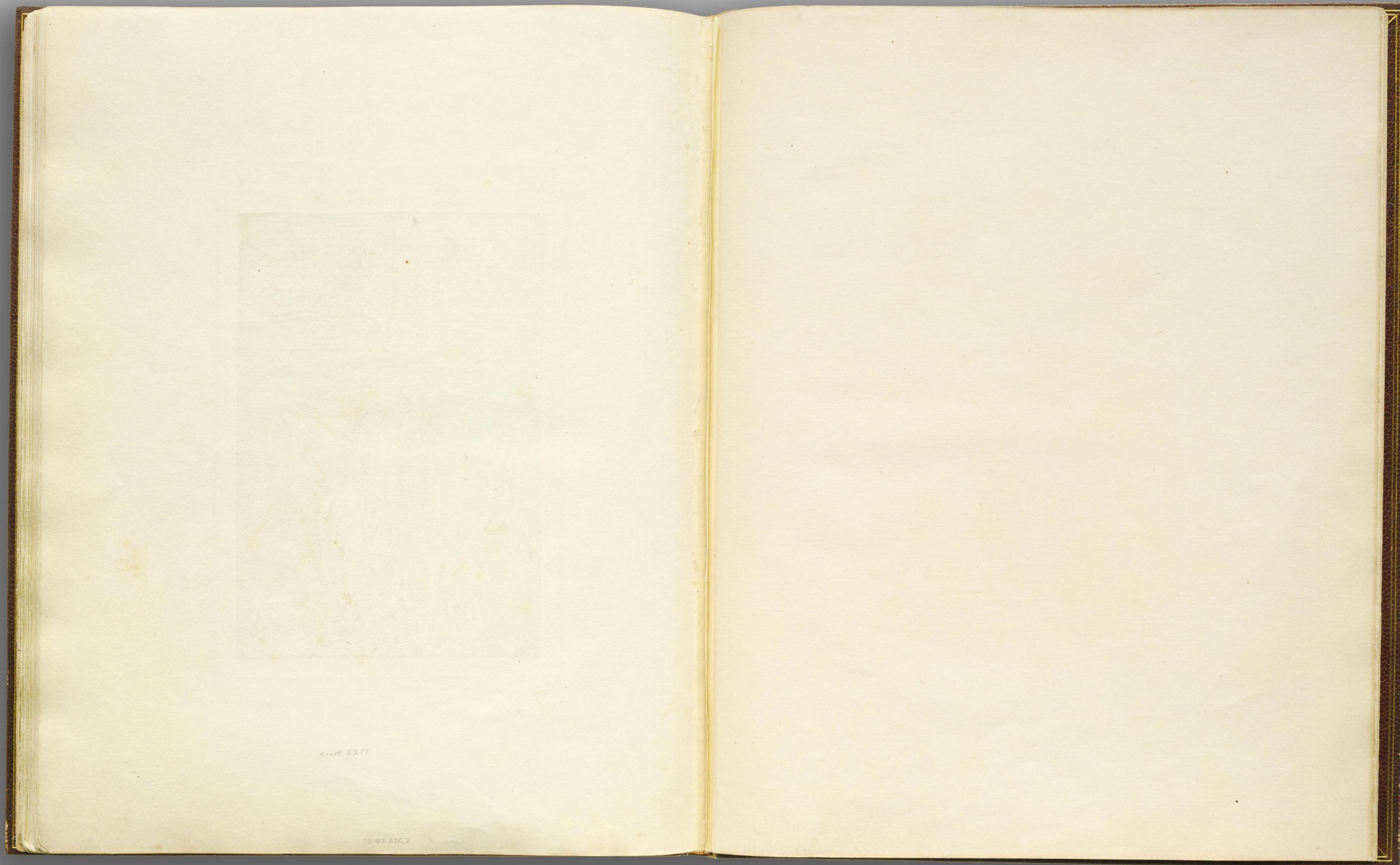
6. And the thirty cities remaind
Surrounded by salt floods, now callid
Africa: us name was then Egypt.

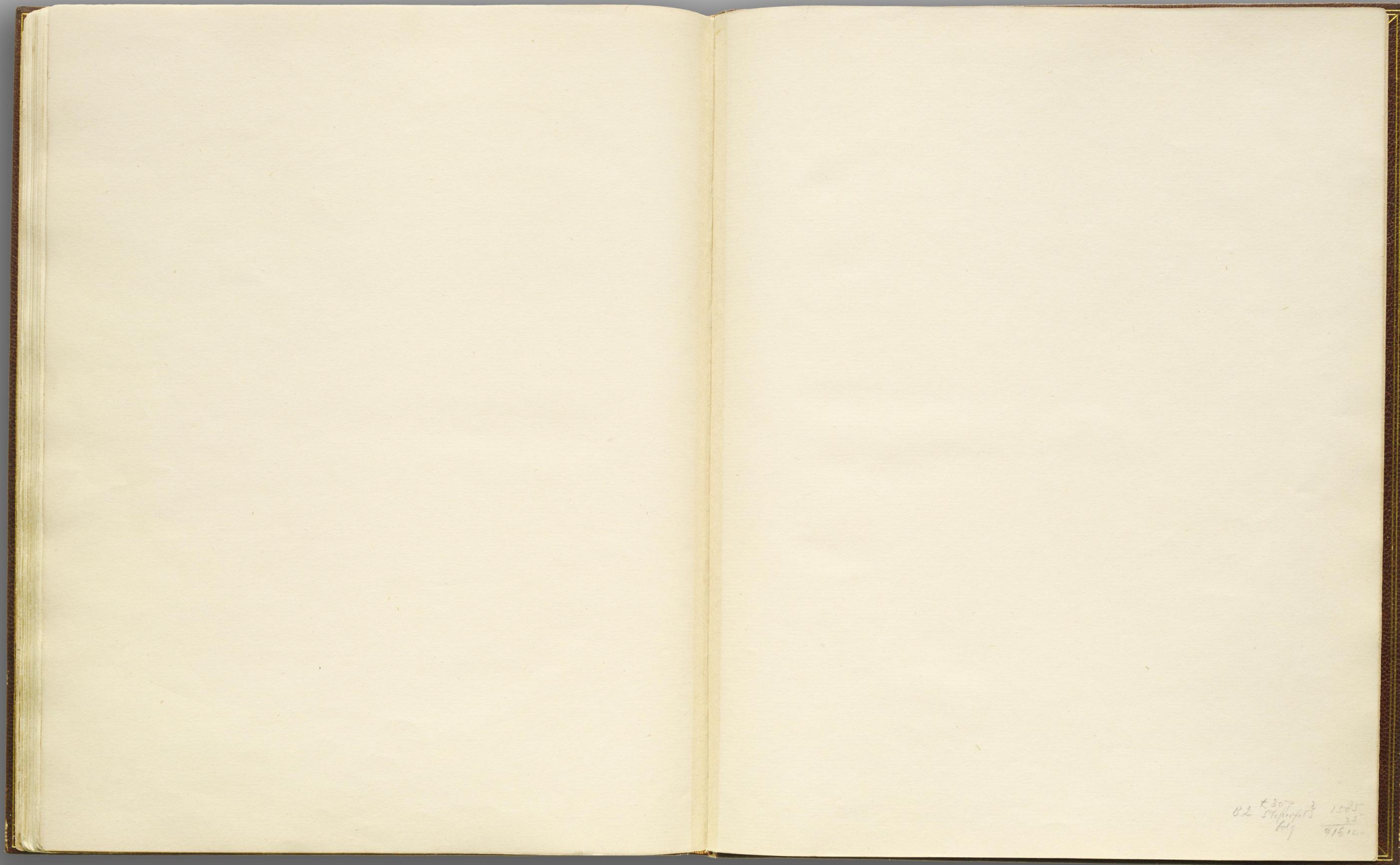
7. The remaining sons of Urizen
Beheld their brethren shrank together
Beneath the Net of Urizen:
Perswasion was in vain.

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

9. And the salt ocean rolled on
The End of the
book of Urizen







t307
B.L. Stephens 1585
July 25
1816

Blake, William

PR4144

F5

1815

Rosenwald

Coll.

MS 11/26/49

2-91-240.64



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

THE LESSING J. ROSENWALD COLLECTION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS