

# EARTH

I · N · F · E · R · N · O

JUSTIN O. SPHER.



**T**WO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE COPIES OF  
THIS BOOK HAVE BEEN PRINTED  
OF WHICH THIS IS No. \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED Austin Space PUB. A.D. FEB., 1905.



# EARTH

A. O.

S. **INFERNO**

# EARTH.

## FOREWORD.



INFERNO

**I**N venturing to submit this, the first collection of Drawings, to AUSTIN SPARE'S few friends and admirers, we can only hope for the kindly reception that so many have promised.

The Text is not intended to fully explain, and the reader must be left to place his own interpretation upon the illustration, which is not grotesque for the sake of originality, but representative of the "Inferno" of Earth emblematical in Art.

In turning contemptuously, as many will, from these Spare creations, remember—they cannot be proved to be senseless although they may seem so to us.

Who can appreciate the wonders of dreamers? However, we cannot fail to see how far removed is the conception of Earth here presented from the accepted theory.

Lastly these pictorial writings in allegory are to convey no morals or sentiments, but are a Song of Experience and of the Negative.

C. H. L.  
FEBRUARY,  
1905



# EARTH.

INFERNO

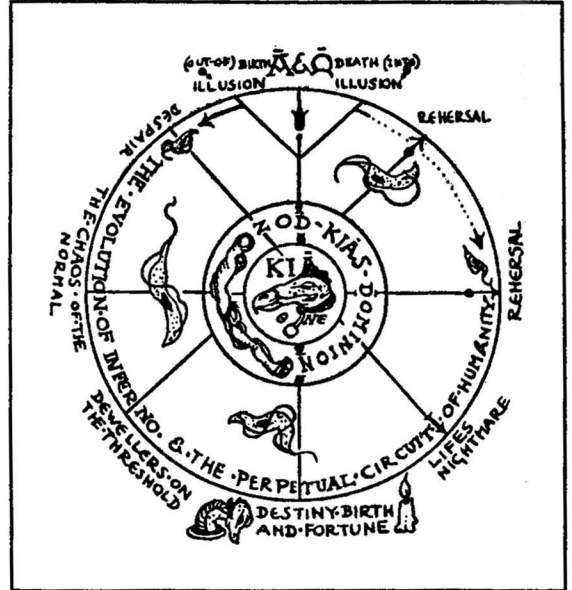
## FOREWORD.



**BLINDNESS UNMASKED.**



## SYNOPSIS OF INFERNO.



Out che se' per quest' Inferno tratto.

O thou that art conducted through this Hell.

*Dante Inf. VI. 48.*



# EARTH.

INFERNO

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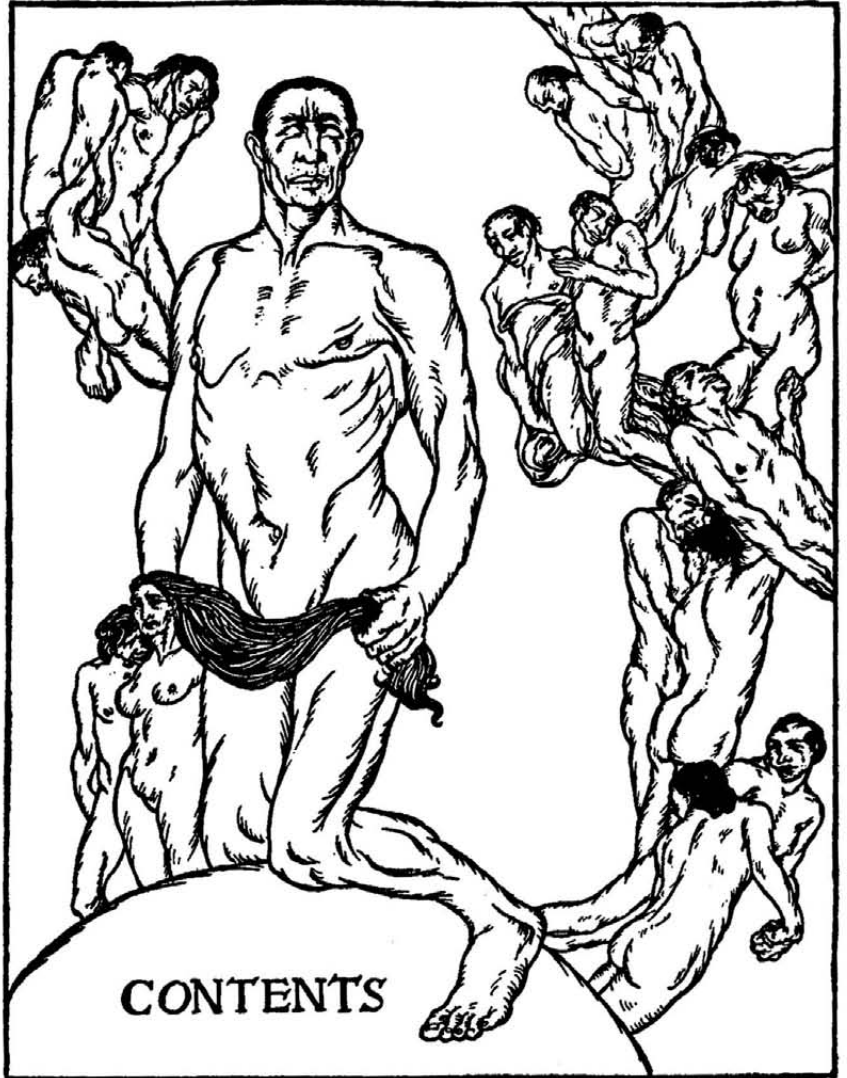
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# EARTH.

INFERNO

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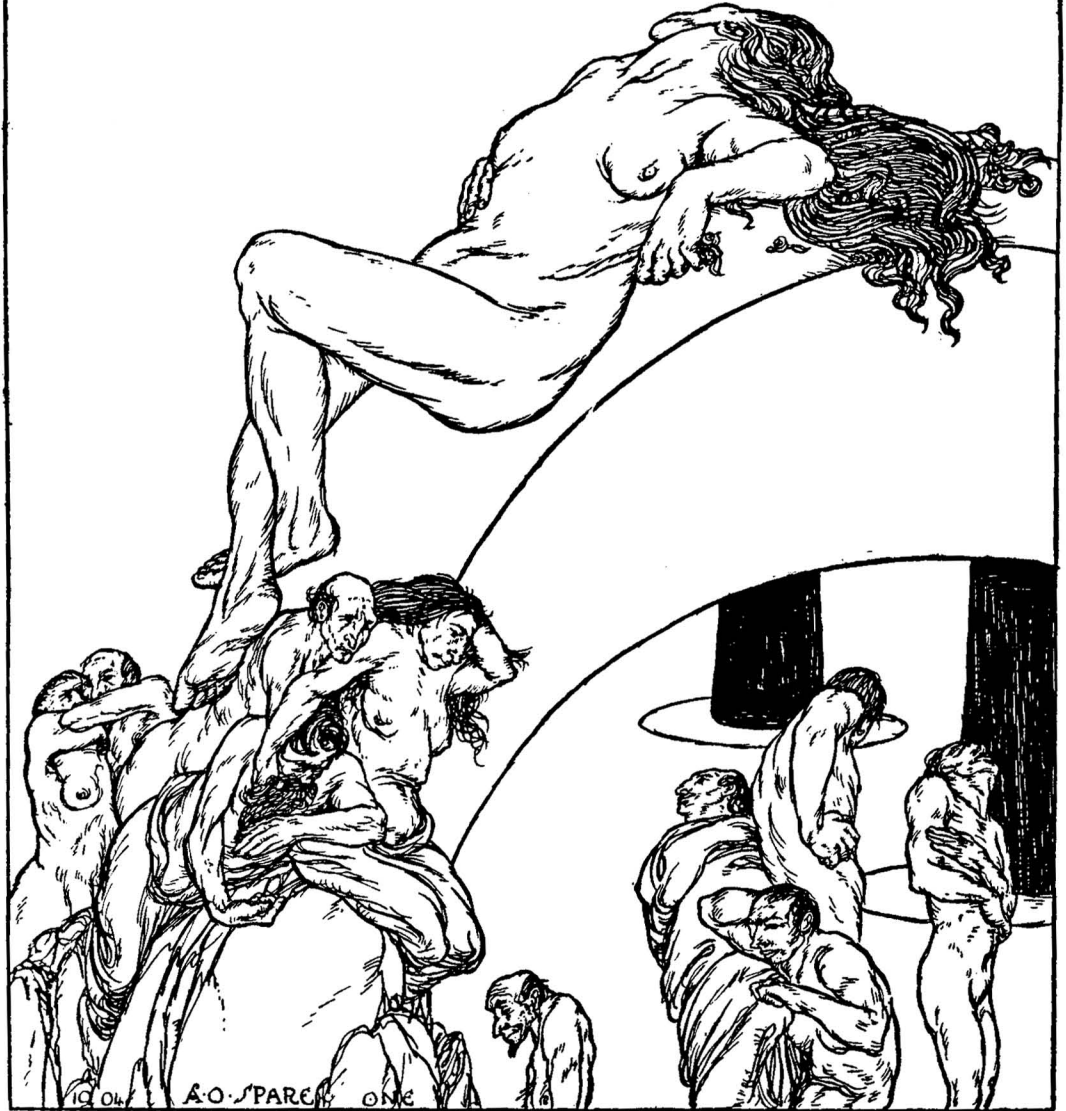
DESTINY, ❖ ❖  
HUMANITY, ❖ ❖  
. AND .  
THE CHAOS OF  
CREATION. ❖ ❖

**E**ARTH   
*INFERNO*  
SYMBOLICAL 





# EARTH



The desertion of the "Universal Woman," lying barren  
On the Parapet of the Subconsciousness in humanity;  
And humanity sinking into the pit of conventionality.  
Hail! The convention of the age is nearing its limit,  
And with it a resurrection of the Primitive Woman.

# EARTH.

INFERNO

## DEDICATION.



No love nor frankincense do I offer thee.  
No sentiment nor rime do I offer,  
But Egyptian effigies,  
Strange Assyrian writing on stone,  
And "The Book of the KIĀ."  
All things such as you love:—  
Strange Desires and Morbid Fancies,  
Such do I give.    ॐ    ॐ    ॐ



TO G. W. N. AND A FEW FRIENDS  
I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.    ॐ    ॐ    ॐ



# EARTH.

INFERNO

## YOUTH UNMASKS.

### DEDICATION.



"THEE AND ME."

Youth emerging from Illusion,

And entering "The old man."

(Experience.)

# EARTH.


INFERNO

## OF MYSELF:—



Alas! I am morbid,  
And have put a purple colour about my brow.  
All men seem eating and drinking the  
"Joy of the Round Feast," while I am  
Melancholy and silent, as though in a  
Gloomy wood, astray.    up   up   up   up   up



Strange images of myself did I create,    up   up   up  
As I gazed into the seeming pit of others,    up   up  
Losing myself in the thoughtfulness    up   up   up  
Of my unreal self, as humanity saw me.    up   up  
But alas! on entering to the consciousness    up   up  
Of my real being, to find fostering    up   up   up  
"The all-prevailing woman,"    up   up   up   up   up  
And I strayed with her, into the path direct.    up  
"Hail! The Jewel in the Lotus."    

AUSTIN O. SPARE.    up



# EARTH.

INFERNO

·PORTRAIT OF HISSELF

AGED 17

·AUSTIN·O·SPARE·

1904



# EARTH.

INFERNO

## THE ALLEGORY

(OF EARTH.)



Without a name, the Black Draped Figure  
I call Life's Knowledge,  
And with a name "SIKAH," I call him  
"The Agnostic Priest" (arising from the dead),  
While the dead sleep with the  
Gain of the World.  
And yet we, on the Parapet of Life, move on,  
Guided by the Light of Hope.  
Fools, your reward is neither  
"Here nor after."  
Yet Pleasure standeth by your Priest.  
Take what you can of her,  
Yet you pay your full.

The Pleasure in Pleasure

Is the expectation of the actual,  
But the actual is a crude awakening  
From the blindness;

While that Jester Knowledge exposes Death only,  
And the Mirror of Truth reveals nought, but Evolution.

♣ This I will call a Rehearsal of Thought. ♣



# EARTH.

INFERNO





## THE ARGUMENT.



SENT my soul through the invisible,  
Some letter of that after life to spell:  
And by and by my soul return'd to me,  
And answer'd I myself am Heaven and Hell.



OMAR KHAYYAM OF NAISHÁPÚR.

One gazed into the mirror of the  
Conscience and asked, "How long have I to live?"  
The voice of a god answered,  
"Thou shalt exist for millions and millions of years,  
A period of millions of years."



# EARTH.

INFERNO

EVOLUTION.



I MYSELF AM  
HEAVEN & HELL.

# EARTH.

INFERNO

## A CREED OF DESPAIR.



My ambition is DEAD,  
Died premature and with it the love of care,  
Also the Jewel in the Lotus.  
The morrow holds nought for me  
Save Sin and Death.



I am even exempt from my own created  
PLEASURES  
The barrenness of this life but remains.  
Yet in despair we begin to see true light. AMEN.  
In weakness we can become strong.



REVERE the KIA and Your Mind will become  
TRANQUIL.



# EARTH.

INFERNO



# EARTH.

## THE INFERNO OF THE NORMAL.

INFERNO

I know thy works,  
That thou art neither cold nor hot:  
I would thou wert cold or hot.  
So then because thou art lukewarm,  
And neither cold nor hot, I will  
Spew thee out of my mouth.



REVELATIONS, CHAP. III.  
VERSES 18 AND 16.



## THIS GULF, AND EKE THE FOLK WHICH IT POSSESS.

DANTE

INF. XI. 69.

Here lamentations, sighs, and strident howls,  
Resounded through the air without a star—  
Whence I, at the beginning, wept thereat.  
Differing tongues and horrid utterances,  
And words of anguish and tones of rage,  
High and hoarse voices, and with them a sound  
Of hands, a tumult made which circulates  
Aye in that air without a season dyed,  
Like to the sand whenas the whirlwind blows.

DANTE

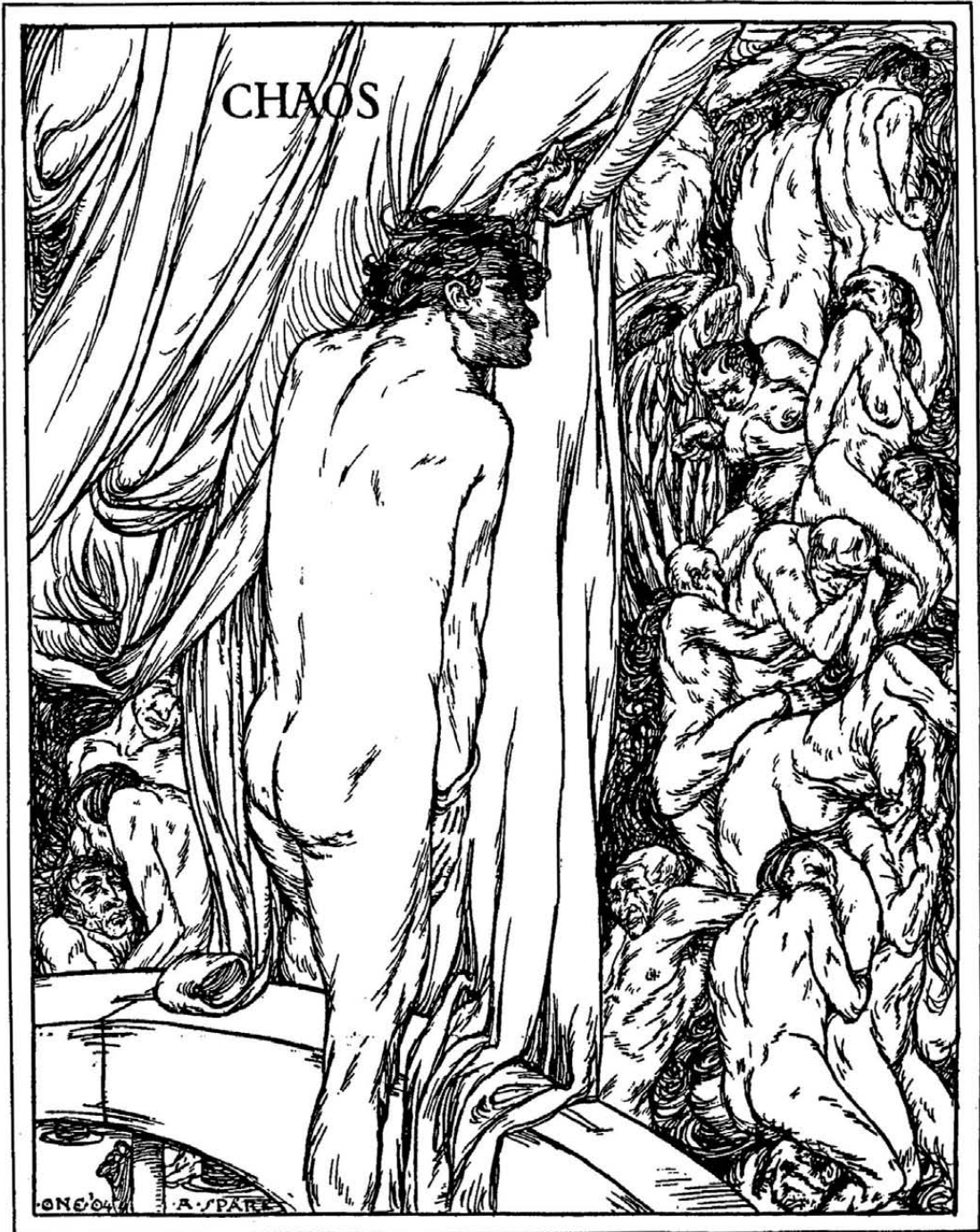
INF. III. 22-20.



# EARTH.

Oh! come with me, the KIĀ and the ZOS, to witness this extravagance.

INFERNO



The perpetual youth of man arises,      ♨      ♨  
Draws aside the curtain—Faith (a token of humanity's  
LIMITED knowledge), and exposes the inferno of THE  
NORMAL.      ♨      ♨      ♨      ♨

# EARTH.

INFERNO



## The DWELLERS on the THRESHOLD.



As we dwell on the Threshold to one extreme,  
The intrinsic BEING is prematurely nascent,  
Creating a CHAOS of Reflection.  
When we gaze into the mirror of our-SELF,  
And see our works as others judge them,  
Then we realize our insignificance  
To the incomprehensible intellect of  
The Absolute KIĀ (the omniscient),  
And find how subcutaneous our  
Attainments are.  
Alas! we are children of EARTH.



This I will call the HELL of the Intrinsic Being.

# EARTH.

INFERNO



Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita.  
In midway of the journey of our life.

DANTE  
INF. II.

# EARTH.

INFERNO

## ZOD-KIĀ'S DOMINION.

How barren, yet it is and shall  
Be. Chained by Faith and  
Blind understanding.  
Here Death lies dead.  
For the ZOD-KIĀ's are  
The Hands of Death.

  
Alas! The temple diagnosis.

THIS IS CALLED     
BODILY SUFFERING.  



A Resurrection of crime unpaid.  



# EARTH.

INFERNO

ZOD-KIÄ'S  
& DEATH.



SUFFERING  
AND FAITH.

# EARTH.

INFERNO

## ❁ LIFE'S NIGHTMARE. ❁ ❁



The voluptuous figure is emblematic  
Of Extravagance (from which all  
Dissipations emanate, and Dissipation creative of  
reproach),  
Against which standeth Religion (an obelisk of  
humanity's Insignificance),  
Winged and it flieth not.  
Overshadowed by the double-headed horse  
Prejudgment, that arose and developed with  
Knowledge.



From behind, Destiny works with  
Death.



(“DEATH IS ALL.”)

# EARTH.

## ☞ A REHEARSAL OF DESPAIR. ☛

INFERNO

EXCESS.

DISSIPATION

REPROACH.

SLOTH.

PREJUDG-  
MENT. ☞



DEBAUCHERY

PLEASURE.

CONTEMPT.

BLASPHEMY.

GLUTTONY.



DESTINY  
& DEATH.




☞ LIFE'S NIGHTMARE. ☛

## FINIS

Alas! on entering at the Gates of Life,  
Lo, I beheld Knowledge, the Jester,  
Capsizing the Feast of Illusion,  
Then drawing aside false Truth,  
He shewed us all—



The World,  
The Flesh,  
and   
The Being.

This is the Alpha and Omega.




# EARTH.

INFERNO

ILLUSION  
& TRUTH.



ALPHA AND  
OMEGA. 

❧ HERE ENDS THIS BOOK ❧

**I**NDEED the Idols I have loved so long  
Have done my credit and the World much wrong:  
Have drown'd my glory in a shallow Cup  
And sold my Reputation for a song.

❧ OMAR KHAYYAM. ❧

AUSTIN



OSMAN ❧

SPARE. ❧

❧ 1904. ❧



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**Earth Inferno**

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