

## Going to Hell in Style

Going to Hell was a popular topic in the arts of the Middle Ages. It was often rendered with far more attention to detail and inspiration than going to heaven; always necessary for reasons of artistic (and moral) symmetry. Eternal damnation might be painful but certainly less boring than eternal bliss.

Here is going to hell in a picture found in a church in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany

Hidden



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Sculptures on the "Fürstenportal" of the Bamberg Cathedral; 13th century. The damned have not yet realized where they are going.



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These guys in the Roskilde (Denmark) cathedral are probably enjoying a rest (having some fruit) on the way down.



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Cologne (Köln) has a lot of medieval art in museums and churches, including supreme going-to-hell pictures. The first one shows parts of Stefan Lochner's (1400/1410 - 1451) "The day of reckoning from around 1435.



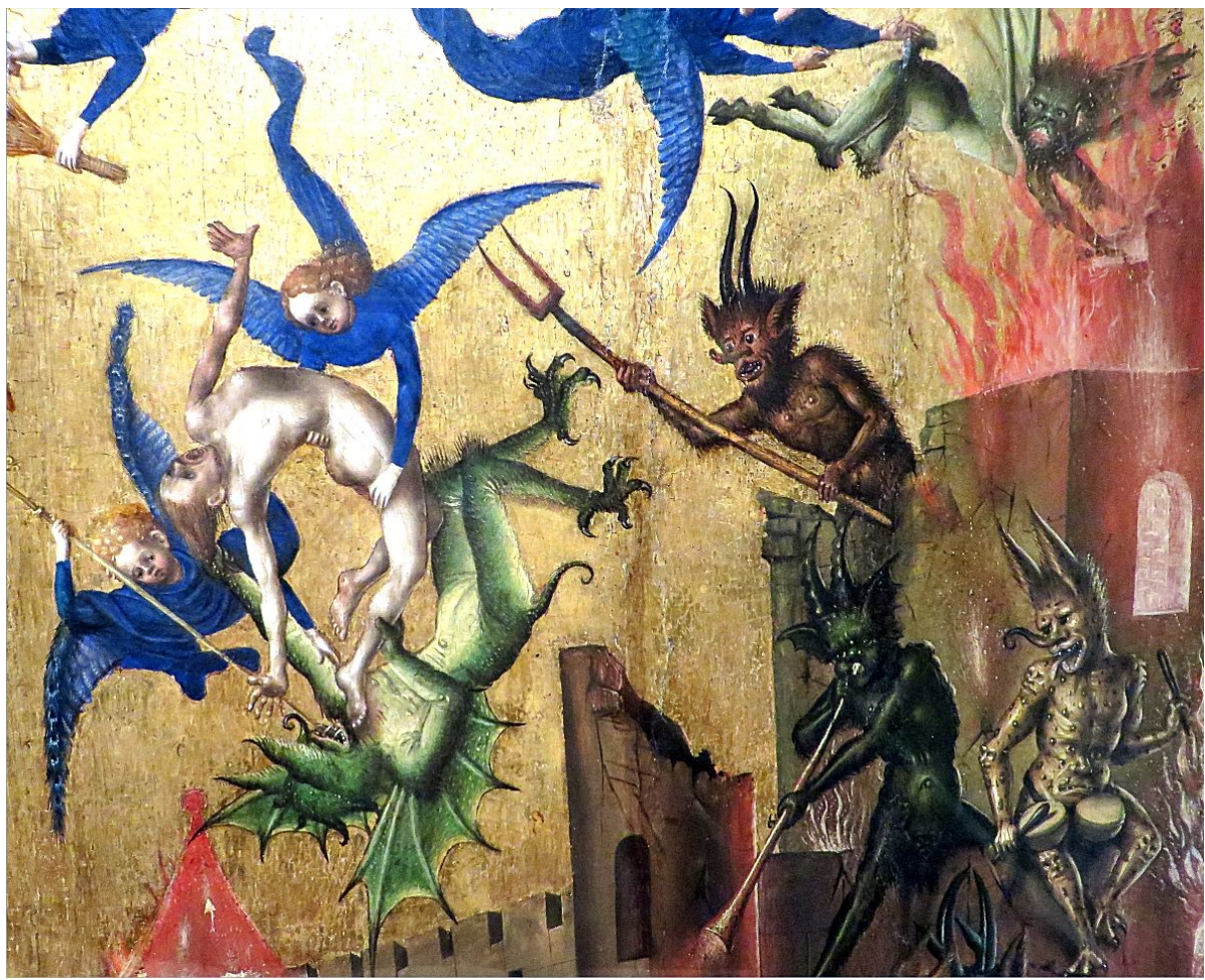
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The details are remarkable. Here are some members of the clergy, including bishops and other dignitaries, who rate a particular ugly devil:



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Not everybody's fate is already decided. Below we see a fight between the airforces of the two powers over a particularly shapely soul. It's not yet clear who will be the winner.



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▀ The lady below knows where she is going and doesn't enjoy it.  
Fragment of "The Damned" from Colijn de Coter, 1500 - 1510.



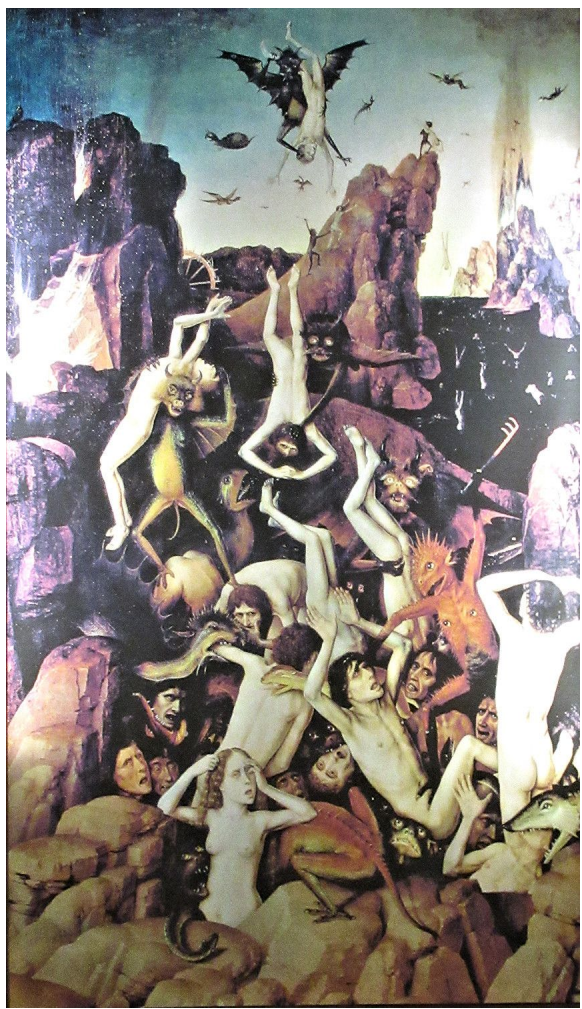
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Here we have part of the Hiob story painted by some unknown guy around 1470. Hiob is not going to hell here. What we see, and what makes this picture remarkable, is that young devils need to go to school, too. Here they are obviously on an outing to learn how proper flogging is done. The teacher explains that the movement should come from the shoulder and not from the wrist.



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During a Dabube cruise in May 2025 we encountered a few nice goings to hell. Here are 2 from Passau, Germany. The top one can be found in the "Obere Veste".



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This going top he is carved into stone and found in the Passau Dome. Note the uncivilized behaviour of teh putties / angels.

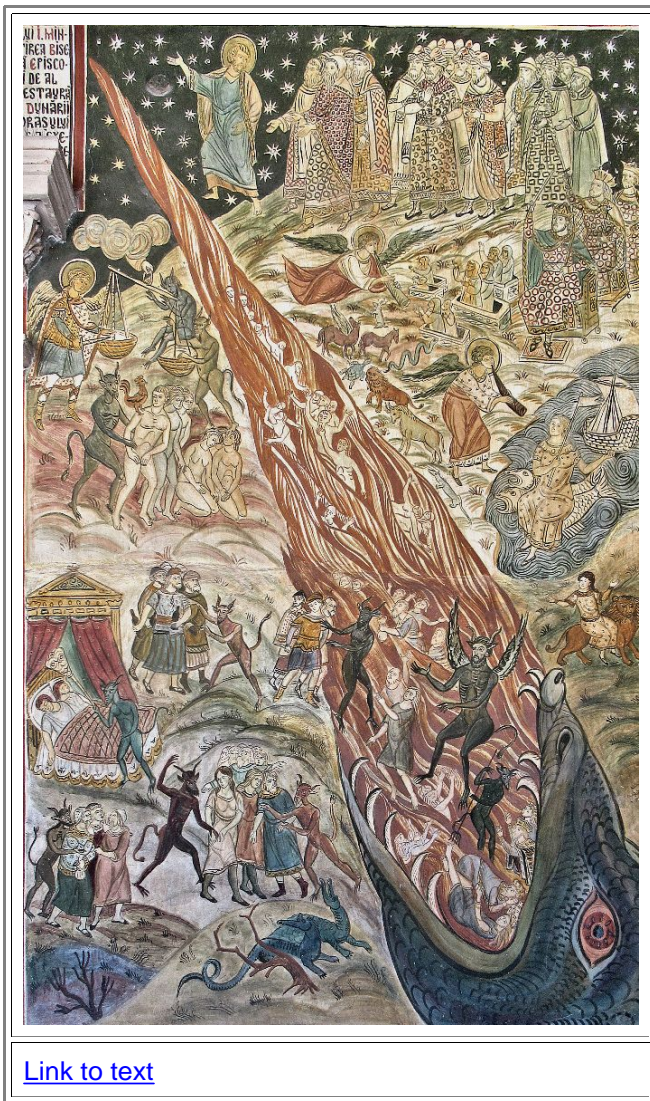
Here we have a part of a very detailed icon shown in the Belgrad museum  
Once more a fish is employed.



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Photographed 2025 in the Belgrad Histroy / Art Museum. Part of an Icon of the Holy Land; Sarajewo, 1794

This one comes from an orthodox church in Constanta at the Black Sea  
It employs a fish for transport to hell. The damned are swept down in some brown river coming from high up.



▶ A large wall painting found in the Riha monastery in Bulgaria reveals the nature of the brown river. It consists of stool (to use a friendly word that begins with an “s”) that emanates from the underside of the stool God is sitting on.



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Photographed in Bulgaria in Sept. 2025



Detail of going to hell in a river of God's own (holy?) shit.

Nowadays time is money and painting an old-fashioned picture takes a lot of time. So we use photography instead and make one picture fit it all. Heaven or hell; it's up to you:

Nude Cruises



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