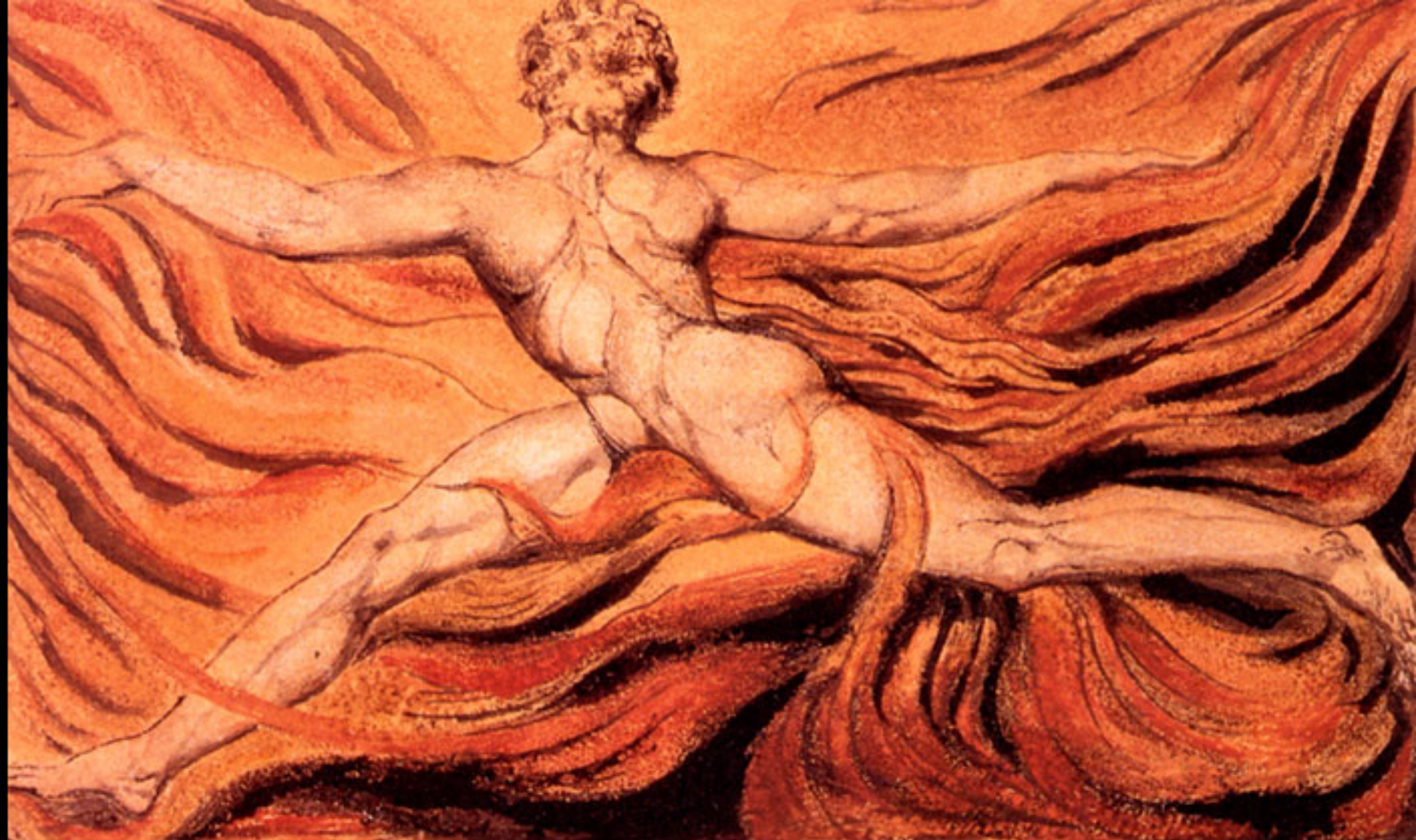


*The Lessing J.
Rosenwald Collection,
No. 1807*

*Rare Book & Special
Collections Division*

*Library of Congress
November 3, 2002*



*PLATE IDENTIFICATION,
COURTESY OF OCTAVO.*

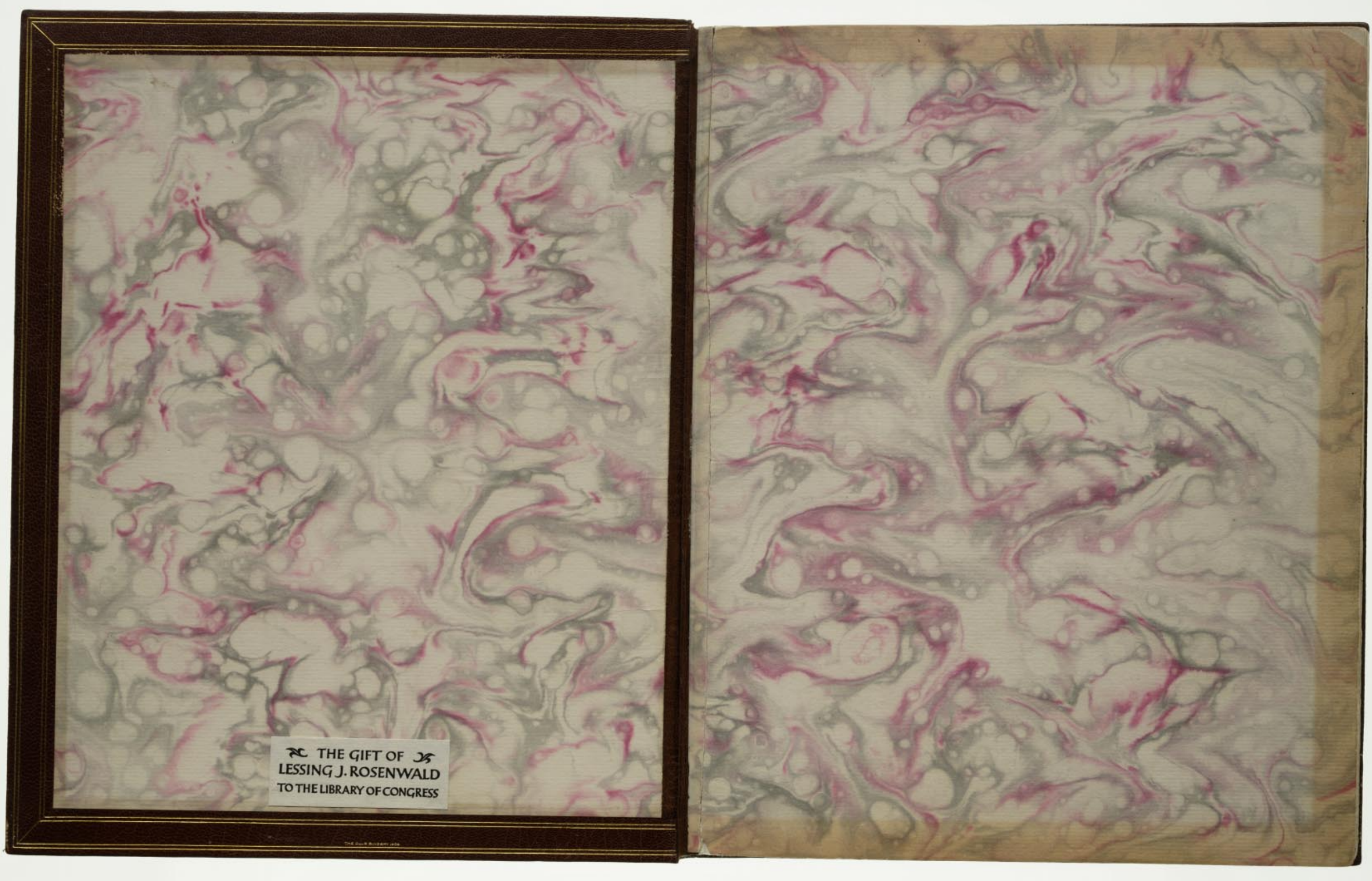
*The Book of Urizen
William Blake | Lambeth, [ca., 1815]*

1794

URIZEN

—

BLAKE



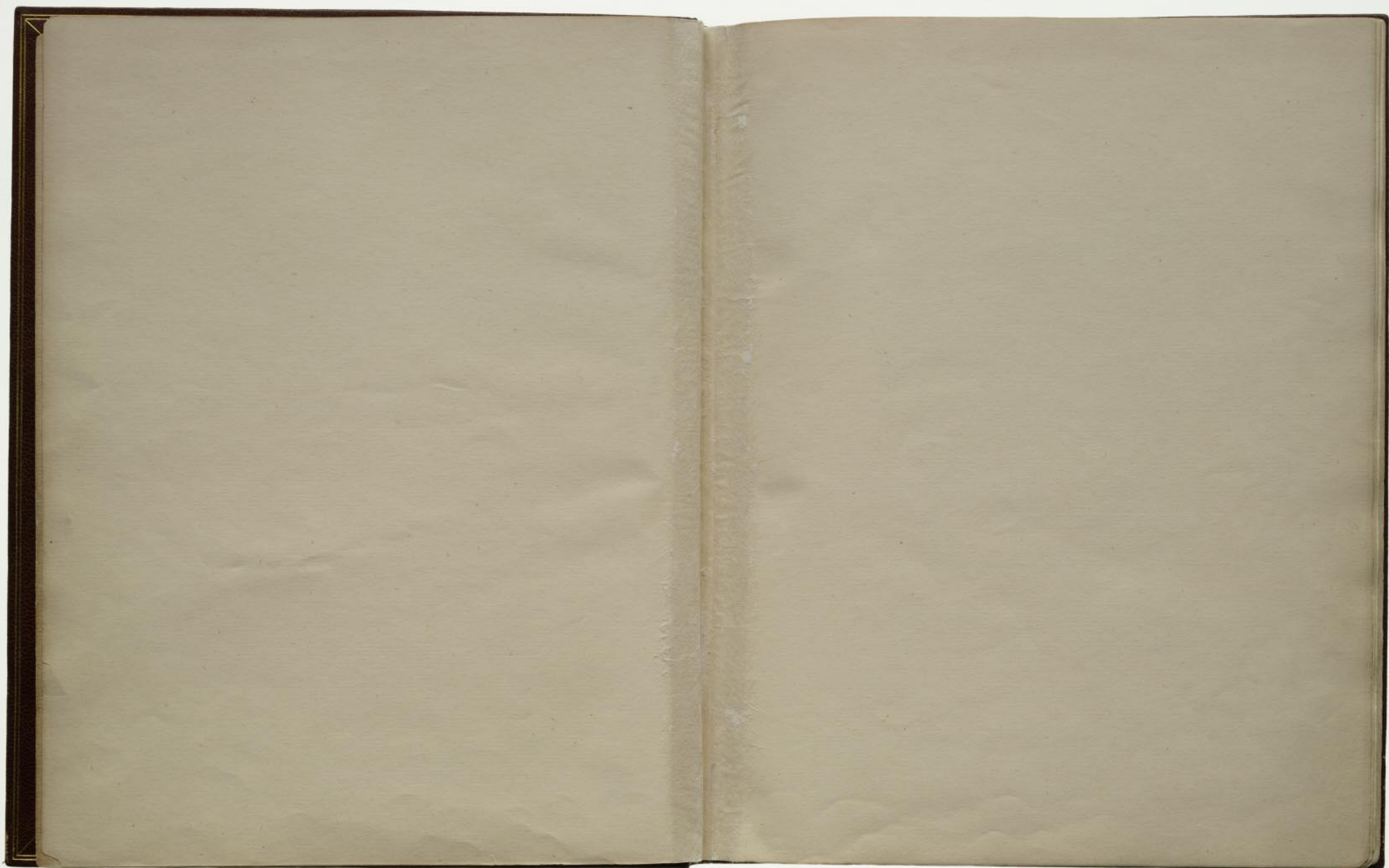
THE GIFT OF
LESSING J. ROSENWALD
TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

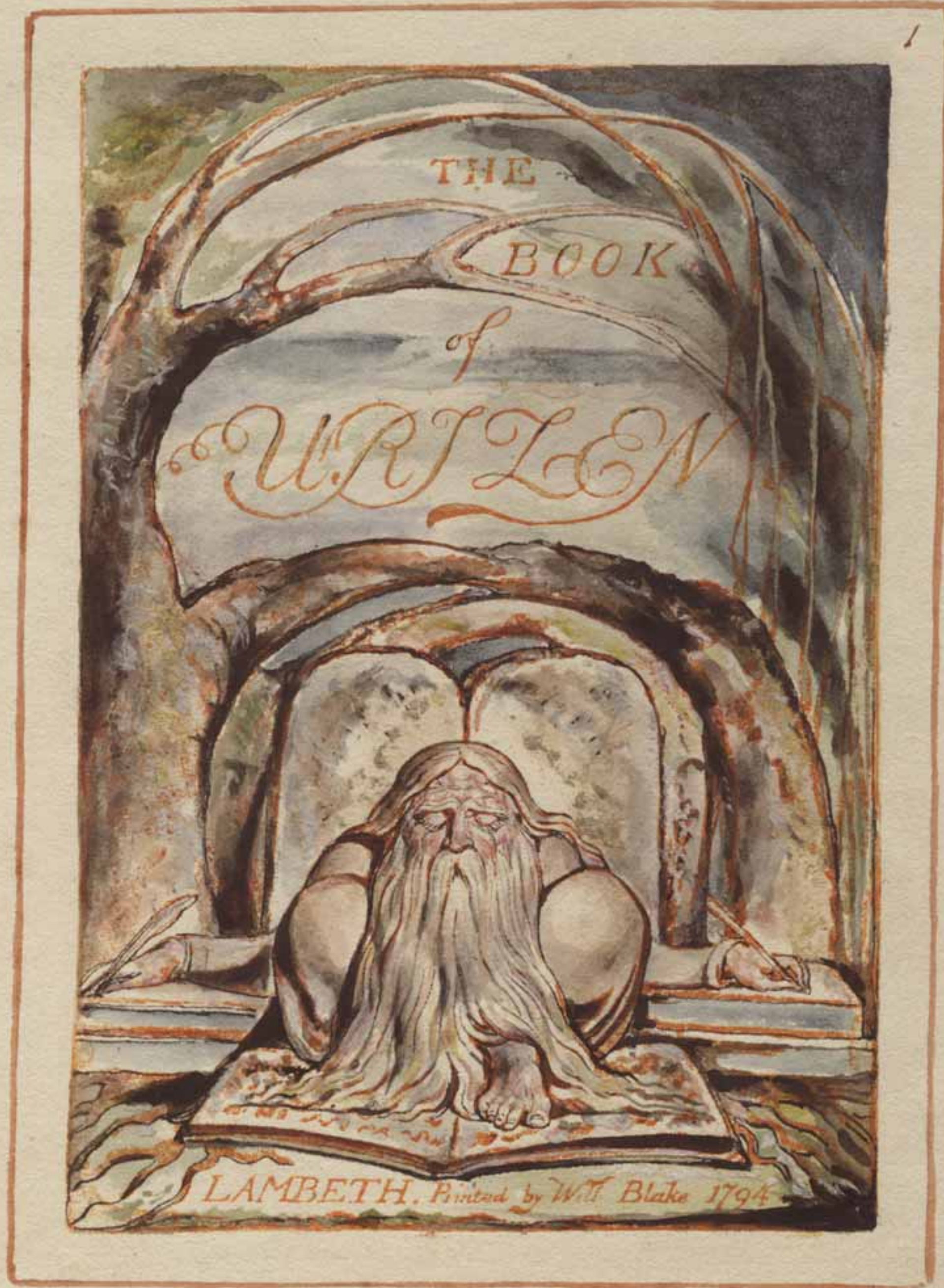
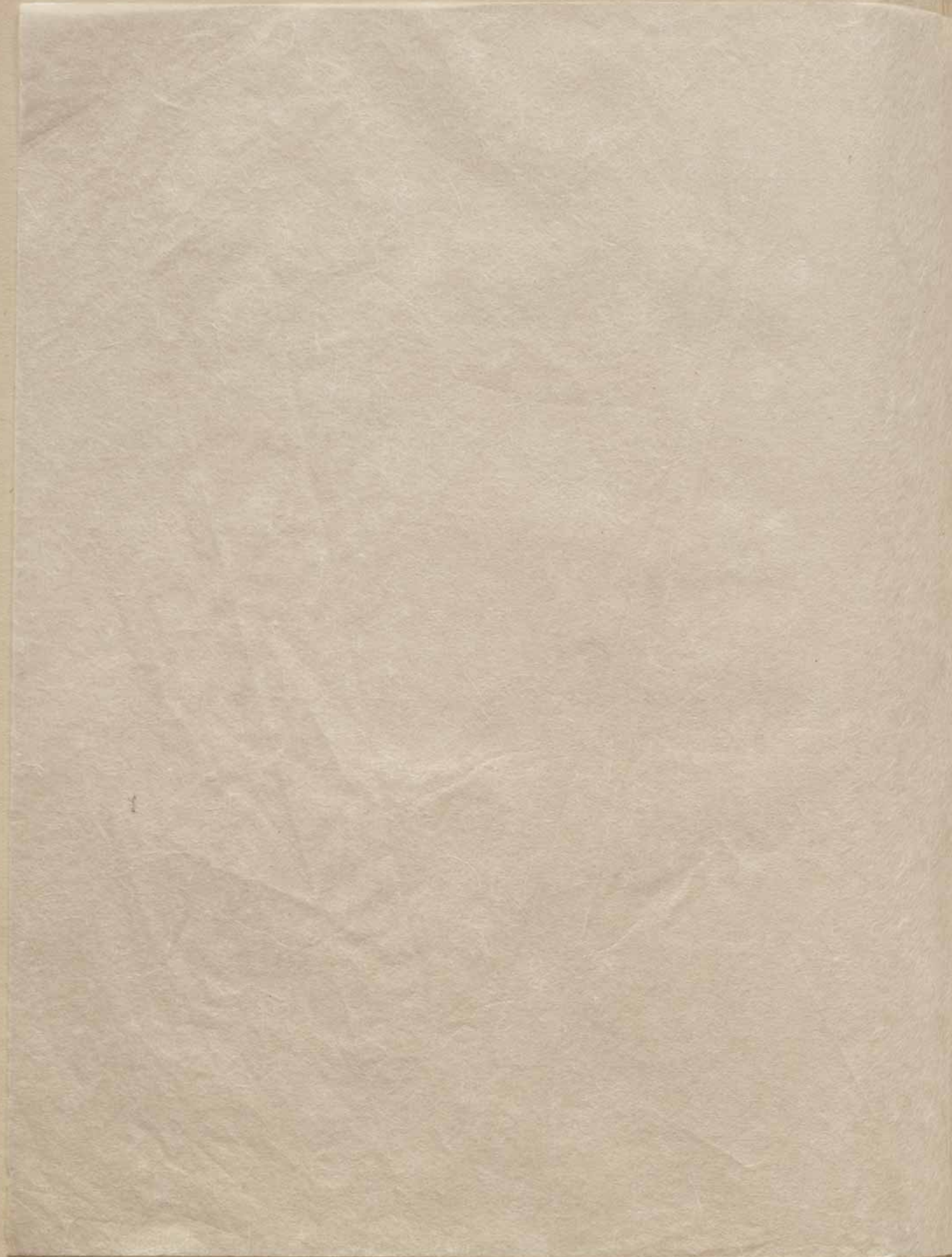
C 22 NOV 2

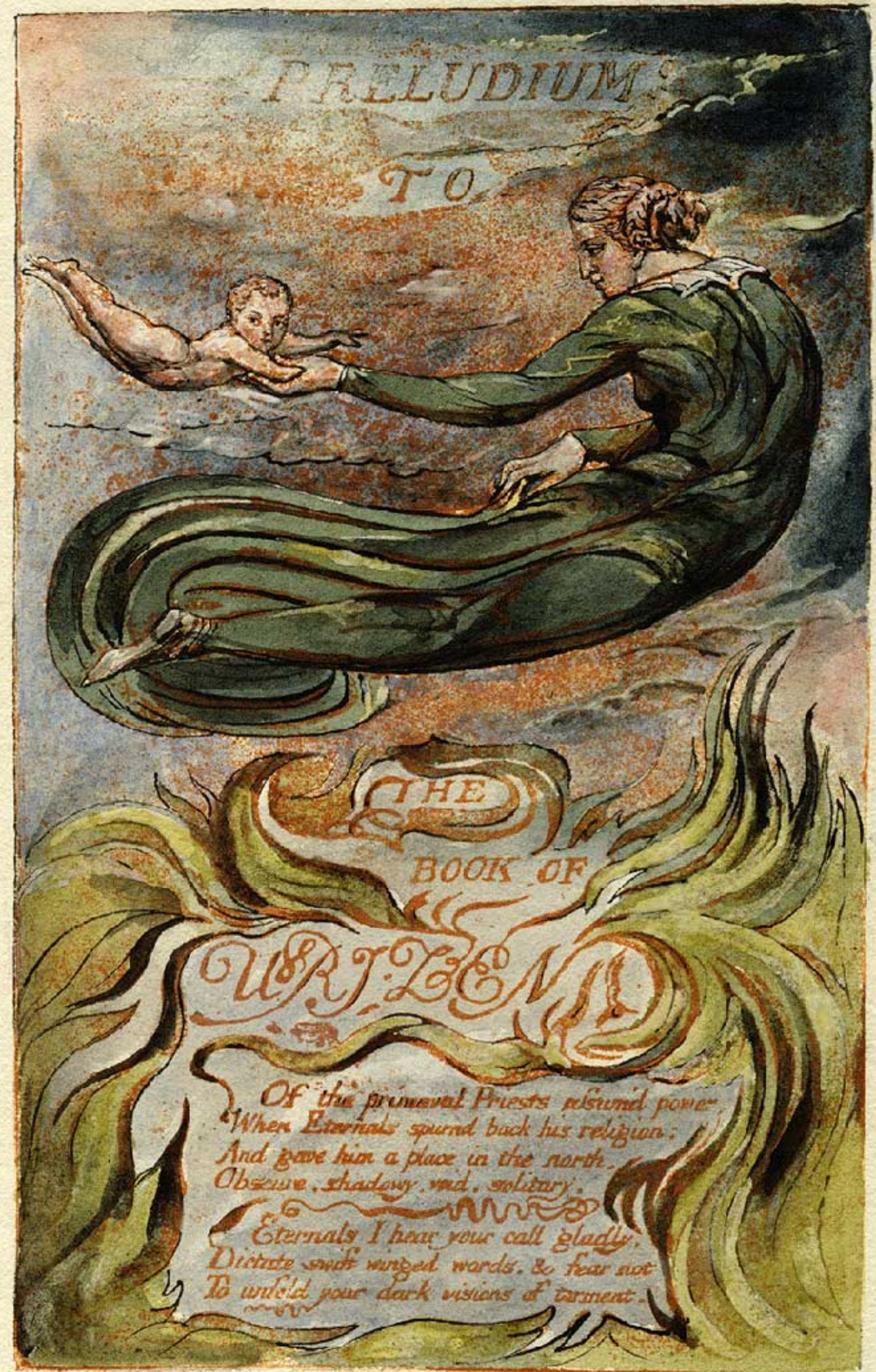
Handy - U.S. for
handy - U.S. for (any handwritten lines)

water mark, 1815

W. H. Miller
Apr 20 1815









Chap: I

1. No, a shadow of horror, is risen
In Eternity; unknown, unprolific?
Self-closed, all-repelling, what Demon
Hath form'd this abominable void?
This soul-shuddering vacuum? Some
Le is Urogen. But unknown, abstracted,
Revolving secret, the dark power hid.

3. But Eternals, behold his vast forests
Age on eyes he lay, closed, unknown,
Brooding shut in the deep, all void,
The petrific abominable chaos
His cold horrors silent, dark Urogen
Prepared; his ten thousands of thunders
Stung in gloam'd agony stretch out across
The broad world, & the rolling of wheels
As a swelling sea, sound in his clouds
In his hills of stard snows, in his
Of hail & ice; voices of terror,
Unseen, unknown: changes appear'd
In his desolate mountains riled furious
When the cloud blazes over the harvest
By his black winds of perturbation.

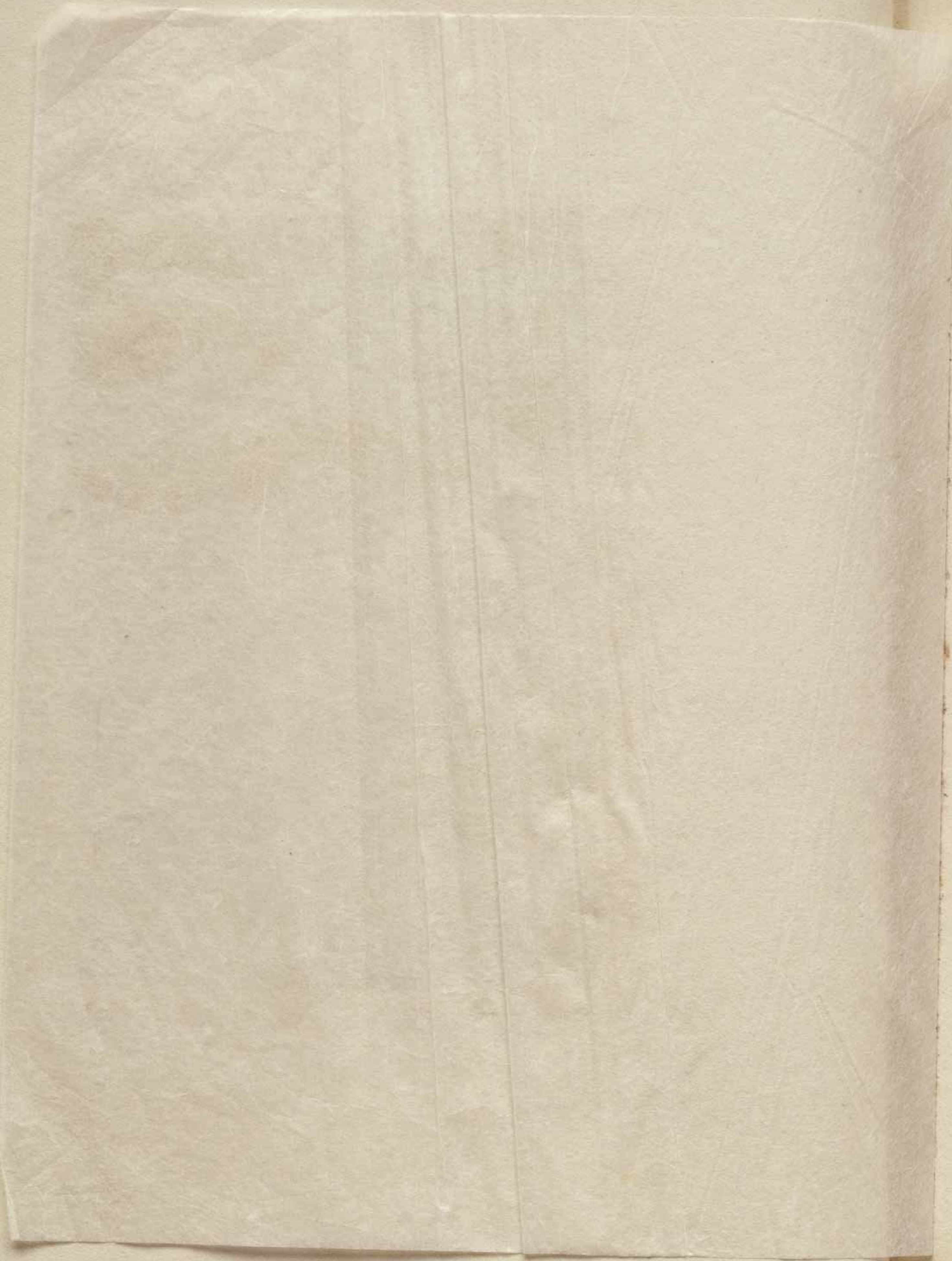
Chap: II

3. For he strove in battles dire
In unseen confections with shapes
Bred from his forsaken wilderness;
Of beast, bird, fish, serpent & element
Combustion blast, vapour and cloud.

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

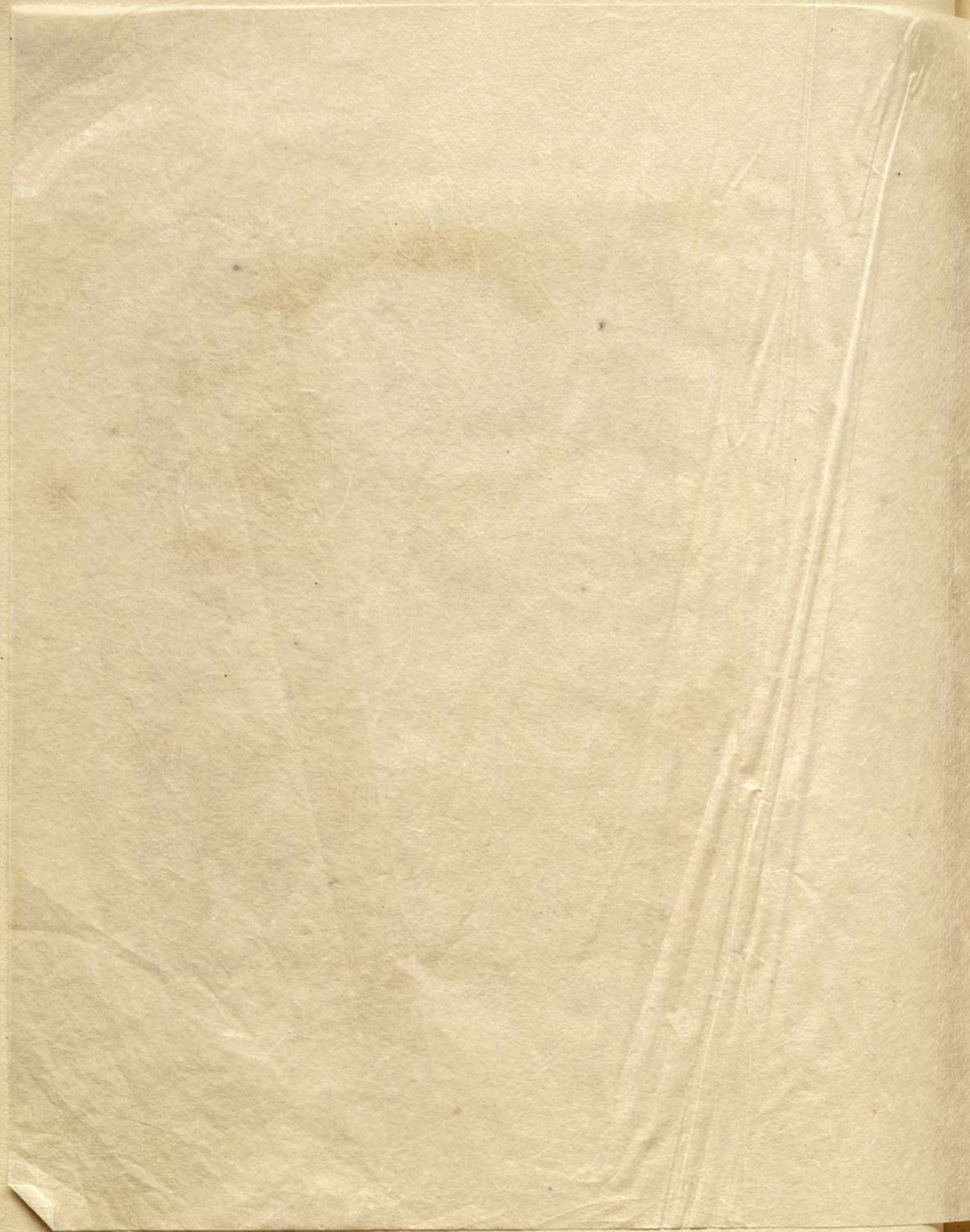
4. Dark revolving in silent activity
Unseen in tormenting passions,
An activity unknown and horrible,
A self-contemplating shadow,
In enormous labours occupied.

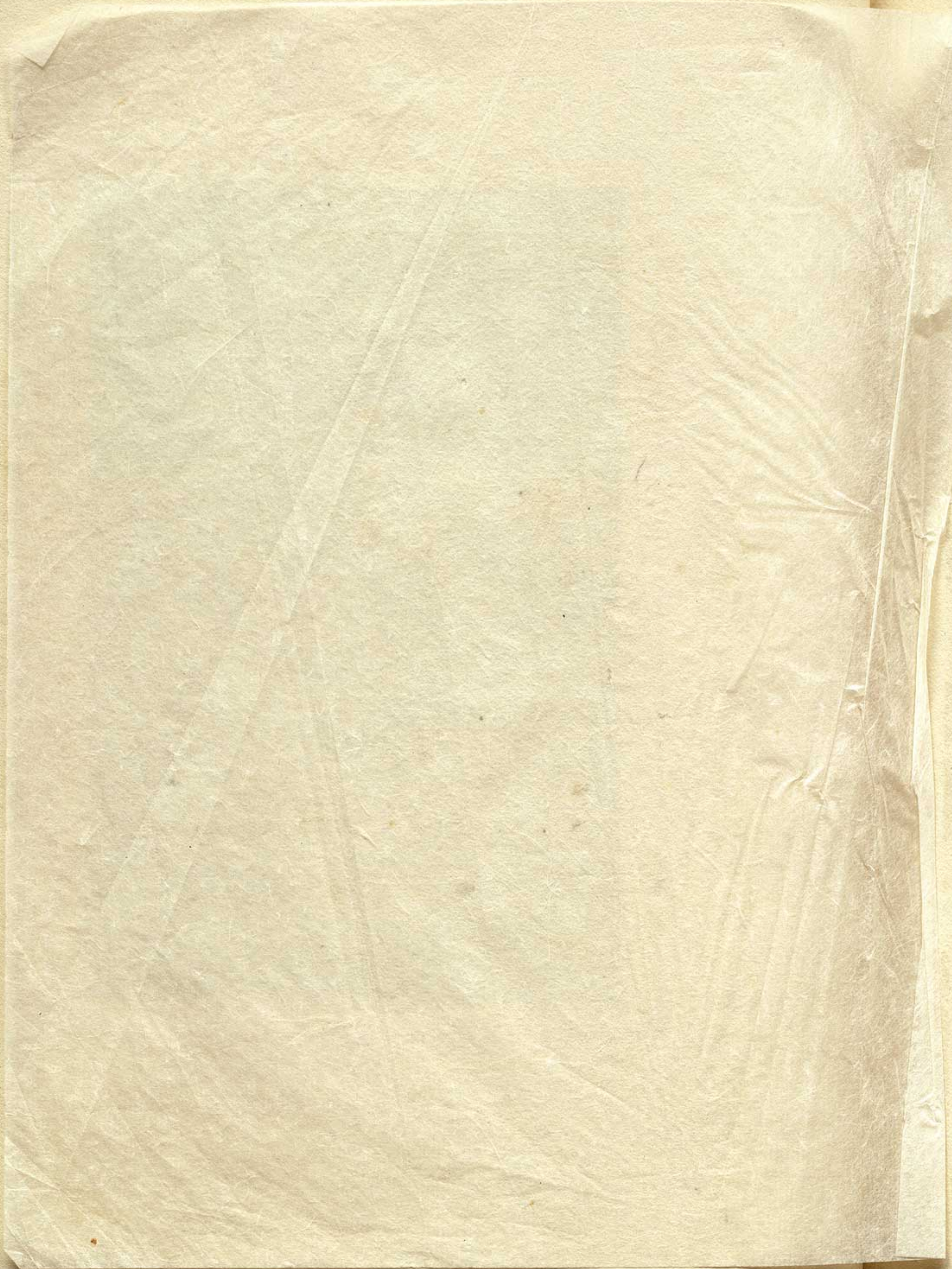
2. The sound of a trumpet the heavens
Awoke & vast clouds of blood rolled
Round the dim rocks of Urogen, so rancid
That solitary and in Immensity
Shall the trumpet: & myriads of





In living creations appeared
In the flames of eternal fury.
3. Sundering, darkening, sundering,
Rent away with a terrible crash
Eternity rolled wide apart
Wide asunder rolling
Mountainous all around
Departing, departing, departing,
Leaving ruinous fragments of life
Hanging from the cliffs & all between
An ocean of winds unfathomable
4. The roaring fires ran o'er the heath
In whirlwinds & eddies of blood
And o'er the dark deserts of Urizen
Fires pour thro' the void on all sides
On Urizen's self-begotten armies
5. But no light from the fires, all was
darkness
In the flames of Eternal fury
6. In fierce anguish & quenchless
flames
To the deserts and rocks he ran
To hide, but he could not; combining
He dug mountains & hills in vast strength
He plait them in incalculable
In horrors & pain & fierce madnels
Long periods in burning fires labouring
Till heavy, and age-brake, and aged,
In despair and the shadows of death
7. And a vast vast, terrific around
In all sides he tramped: like a wamb
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
Bound by sons of Eternity, standing
In 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



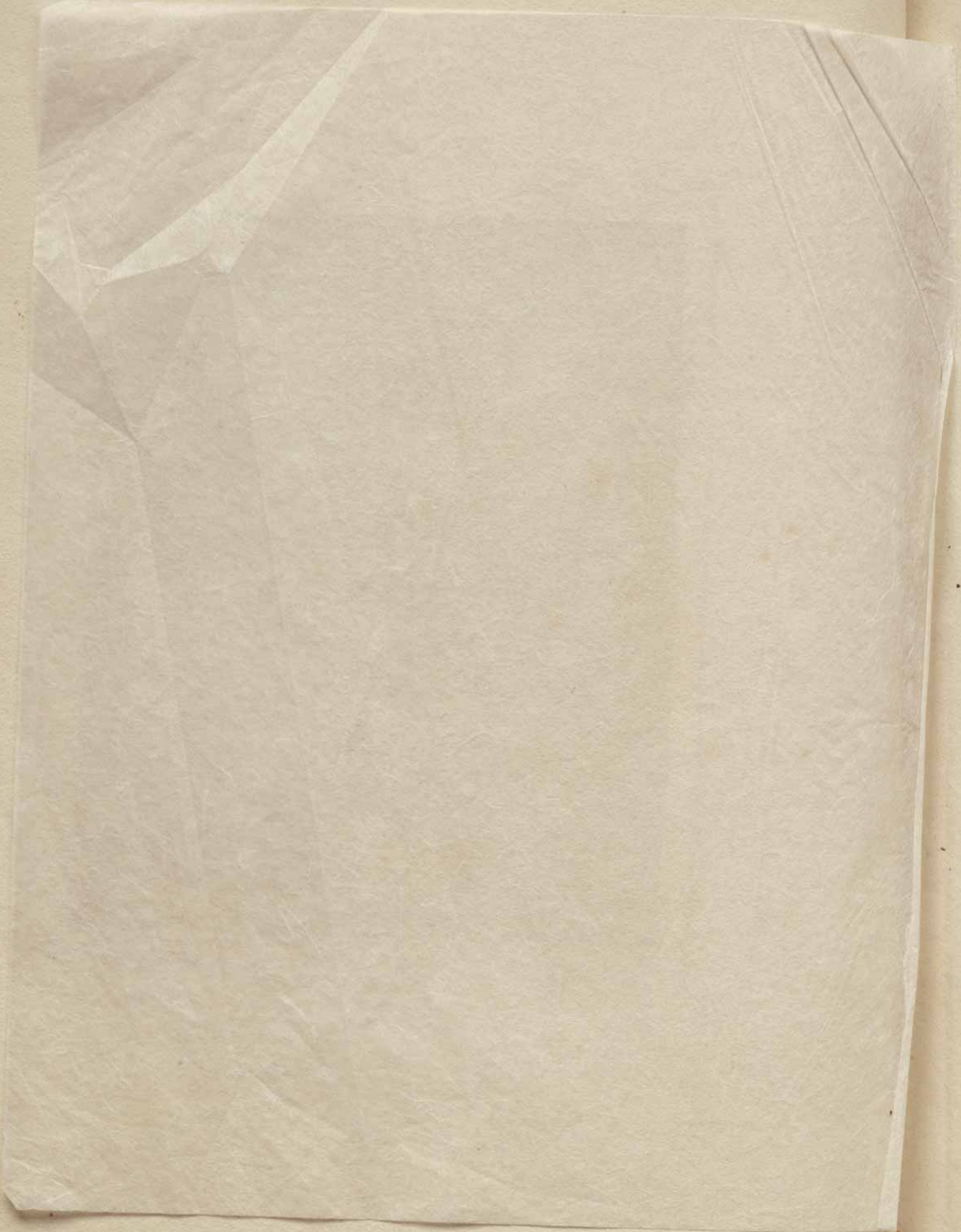


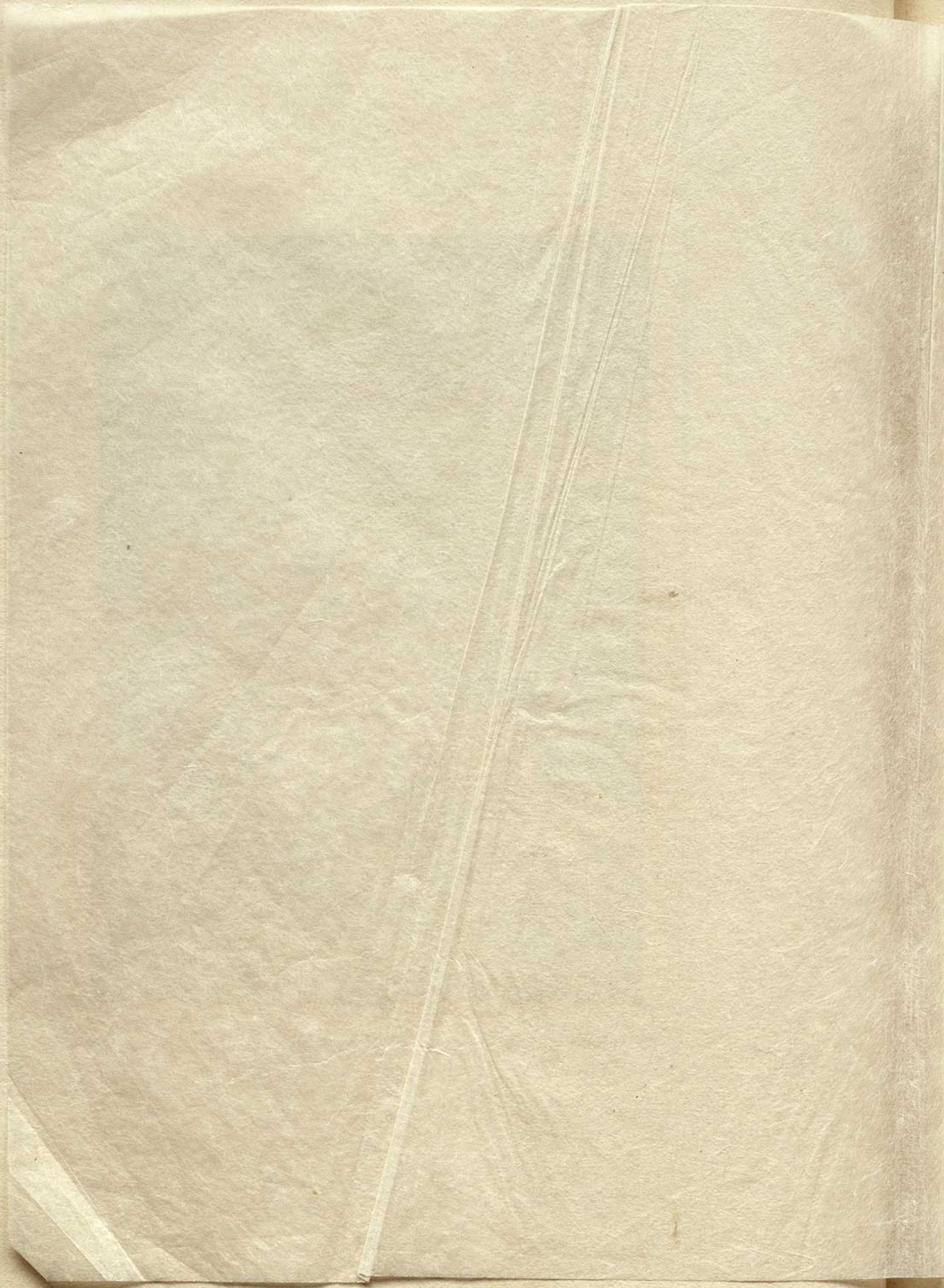
7

Uryzen C. 11
As the stars are apart from the earth (10) But Uryzen laid in a stony sleep
Urypaniza . rent from Eternity
Los wept howling around the dark
Demon :
And cursing his lot for in anguish
Uryzen was rent from his side
And a fathomless void for his feet :
And Uryzen died for his dwelling .

U The Eternal said : What is this ? Dead
Uryzen is a clod of clay .

The illustration is a rectangular scene framed in red ink. It depicts a dark, cavernous space with jagged rock walls. In the center, a figure lies on the ground, their body contorted in pain or death. To the left, another figure is propped up against a rock, looking towards the center. To the right, a third figure is hunched over, their head buried in their hands. The overall atmosphere is one of despair and suffering. The text above the scene is written in a cursive, handwritten style.





9

12: Las howld in a dismal stupor, Pitted with direful changes
Groaning! gnashing! groaning! He lay in a dreamles night
Till the wrenching apart was healed

13: But the wrenching of Urizen heald not
Cold venturde's flesh or clay

14: Till Las rouz'd his Jus livers
At the formles unmeasurable death.

Chap: IV: -ment
 1. Los smitten with astonish- And Los formed nets & gins
 Frightend at the hurling bones And throw the nets round about
 2. And at the surging sulphure He watch'd in shuddring fear
 -ous The dark changes & bound every
 Perturbed Immortal mad raging change
 With rivets of iron & brass;
 3. In whirlwinds & pitch & nitre 6. And these were the changes
 Round the furious limbs of Los of Urizen.







Chap. IV.

1. Ages on ages roll'd over him:
 In stony sleep ages roll'd over him:
 Like a dark waste stretching changeable
 By earthquakes run, belching sudden
 In ages roll'd ages in phastly
 Sick torment: around him in whirlwinds
 Of dar'nel's the eternal Prophet howl'd
 Beating still on his rivets of iron
 Pouring sodar of iron; dividing
 The horrible night into watches.

2. And Uryen (so his eternal name)
 His prolific delight obscur'd more & more
 In dark secrecy, hiding in surging
 Sulphureous fluid his phantasies
 The Eternal Prophet heard the dark
 bellows.
 And turn'd restle's the tongs; and the
 hammer
 Incessant beat; forging chains new & new
 Numb'ring with links, hours days & years

3. The eternal mind bounded began to roll
 Ladders of wrath ceas'd to be round & round
 And the sulphureous beam surging thick

4. Settled, a lake, bright, & shining clear,
 White as the snow on the mountains cold
 Forgetfulnes, dar'nel's, pascelsity,
 In chains of the mind locked up,
 Like fetters of ice shinking together
 Disorgan'd, rant from Eternity,
 Los beat on his fetters of iron;
 And heated his furnaces & pour'd
 Iron sodar and sodar of brals

5. Restle's turn'd the immortal unchain'd
 Heaving dolorous, anguish'd, unbearable
 Till a rock shaggy wild inclosed
 In an orb, his fountain of thought.

6. In a horrible dreadful slumber;
 Like the linked infernal chain;
 A rust, spine writh'd in torment
 Upon the winds; shooting pain'd
 Ribs, like a bending cavern
 And bones of solianels, froze

Over all his nerves of joy.
 And a first Age pass'd o'er,
 And a state of dismal mor.

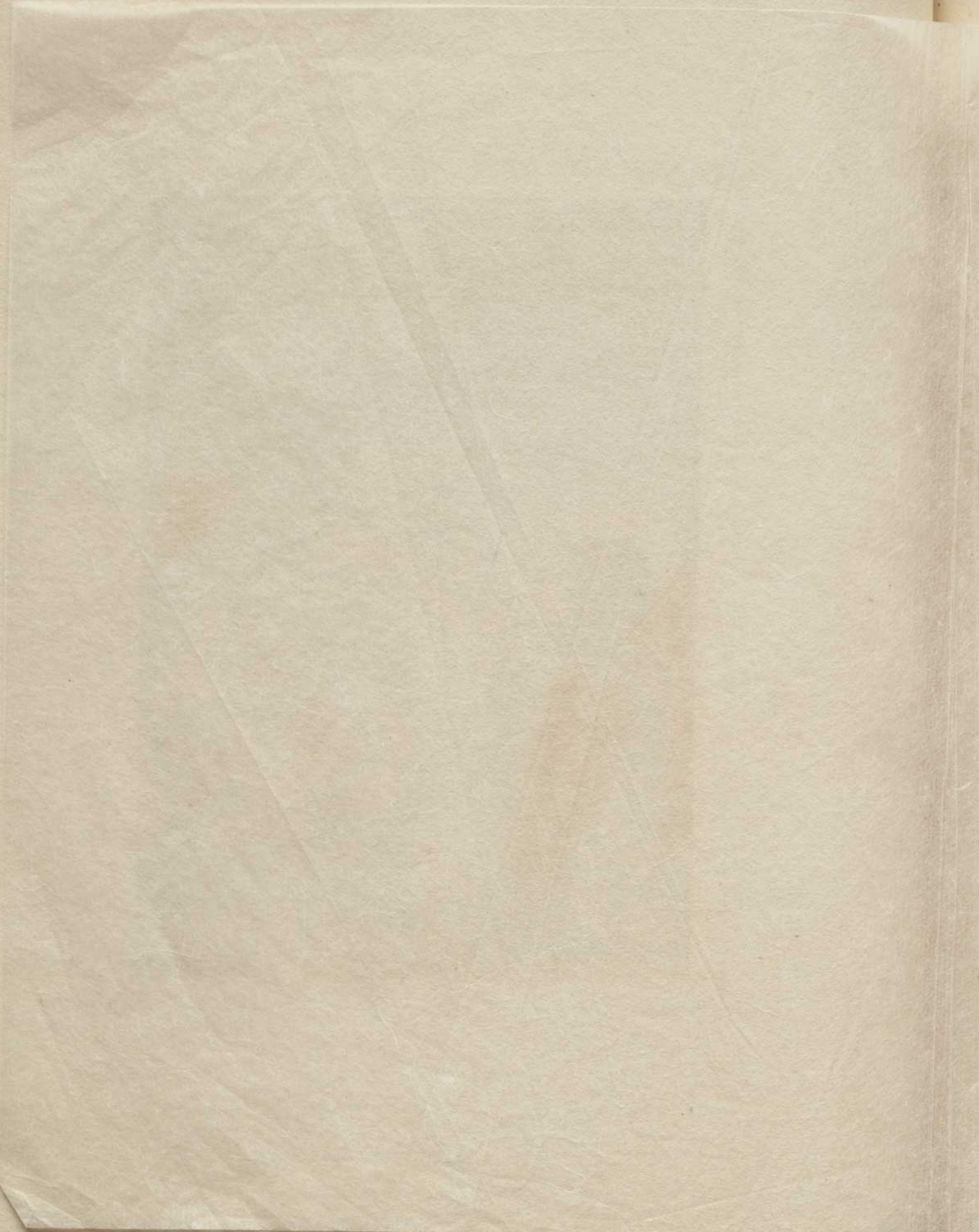
7 From the caverns of his jointed Spine
 Down sunk with fright a rock
 Round globe hot burning deep
 Deep down into the Abyss
 Panting, Conquering, Trembling
 Shooting out ten thousand branches
 Around his solid bones
 And a second Age passed over,
 And a state of dismal woe.

8 In hurrying fur rolling round
 His nervous brain shot branches
 Round the branches of his heart
 High into two little arms
 Fixed in two little arms

9 The pangs of hope began
 In heavy pain striving, striving
 Two Lines in close relation
 From beneath his orby of action
 Shot spinning out and perished
 As hot iron, and a fourth Age past
 And a state of dismal woe.

10 In phantoms torn and rack
 Standing over the dead





Urizen G.V.

Two Nostrils 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 ghastly torment sick; A
 Within his ribs bloated round. 1. In torrens Las shrunk from his
 A craving Hungry Cavern. taste
 Hence arose his channel'd Throat. His great hammer fell from his hand.
 And like a red Ramo a Tongue His fires beheld, and suckling.
 Of thirst & of hunger appear'd. Hid their strong limbs in smokes.
 And a sixth Age pass'd over; For with noises ruinous loud;
 And a state of dismal woe. With hurtlings & clashing & groans
 The immortal undur'd his chains.

12. Enrag'd & stifled with torment Tho' bound in a deadly sleep.
 He threw his right Arm to the north 2. All the myriads 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
 Roll like a sea around him.



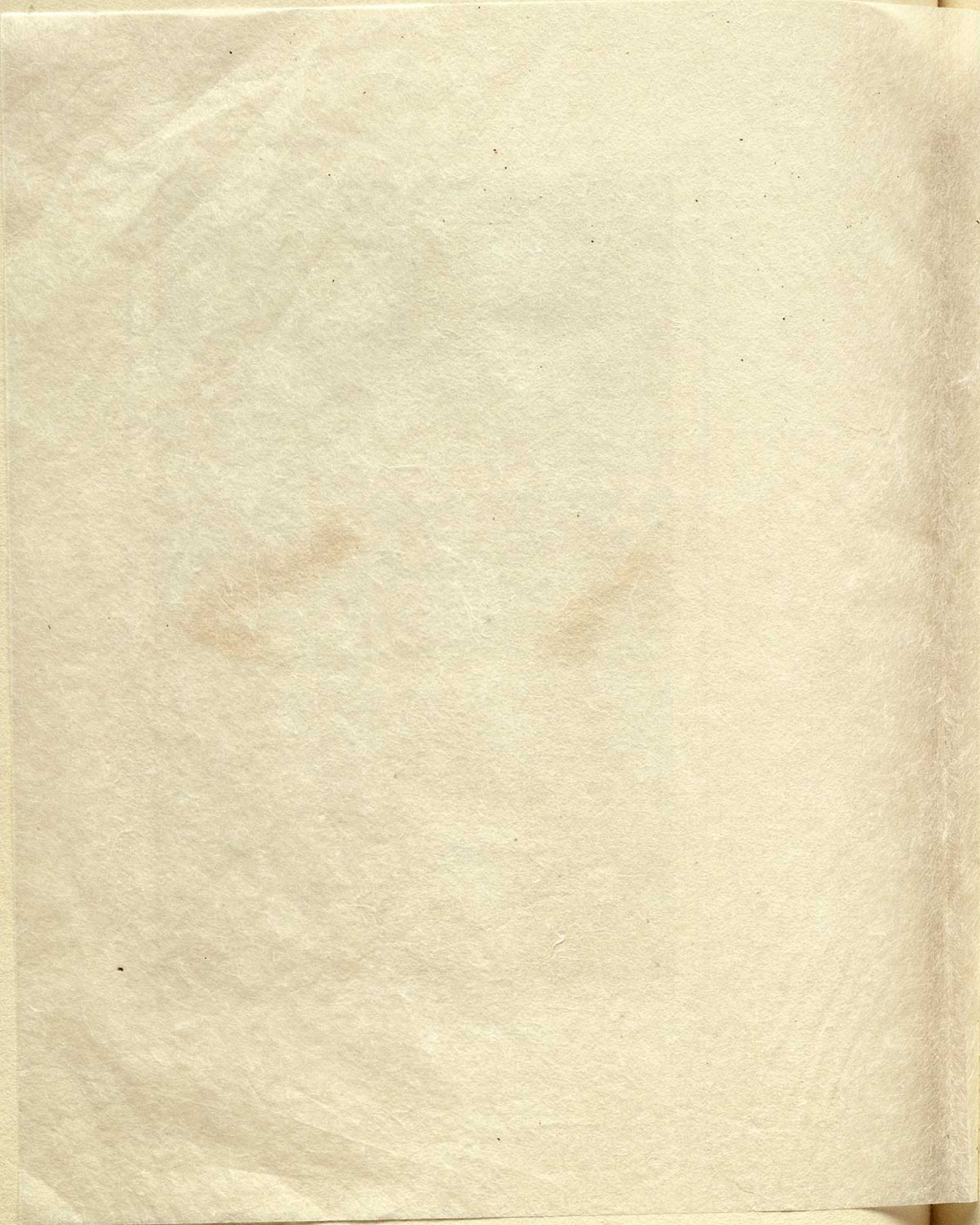
Except what his little orbs
 Of sight by degrees unfold. Then he look'd back with anxious desire
 But the space undivided by existence
 Struck horror into his soul.

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

4. Shuddering, the Fernal Prophet smote
 With a stroke, from his north to south, In his chains bound, & Ray began
 region

The bellows & hammer are silent now
 A parable's silence, his prophetic voice For pity divides the soul
 Sings; a cold solitude & dark void in paraps eternity an eternity
 The Eternal Prophet & Urizen clas'd. Life in apparats pour'd down his
 cliffs

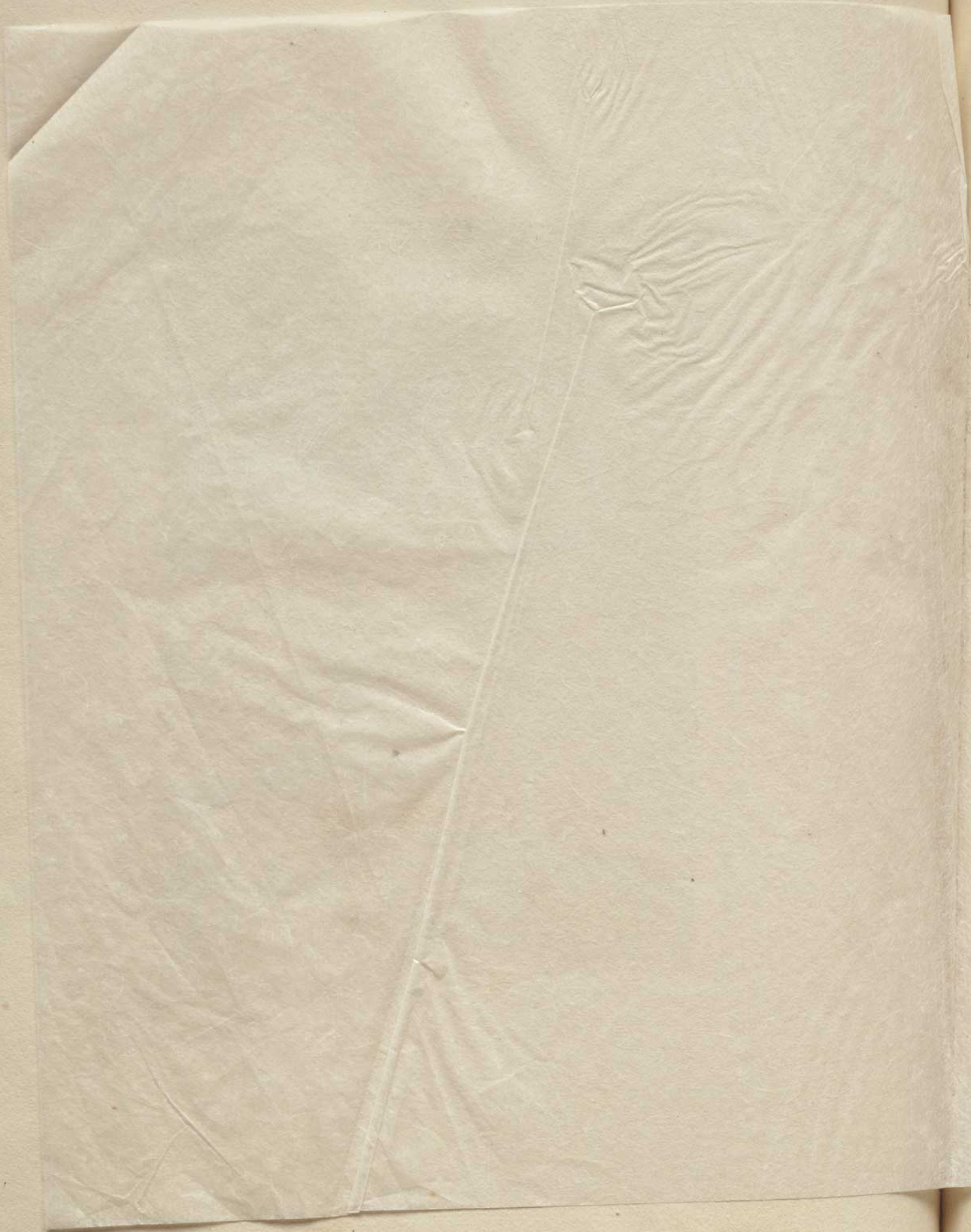
5. Ages on ages roll'd over them. The void shrunk the lymph into nerves
 Cut all from life & light frozen. Wandring wide on the bosom of night
 Into horrible forms of deformity. And left a round globe of blood
 Los smelter'd his fires to decay. Trembling upon the Void



16

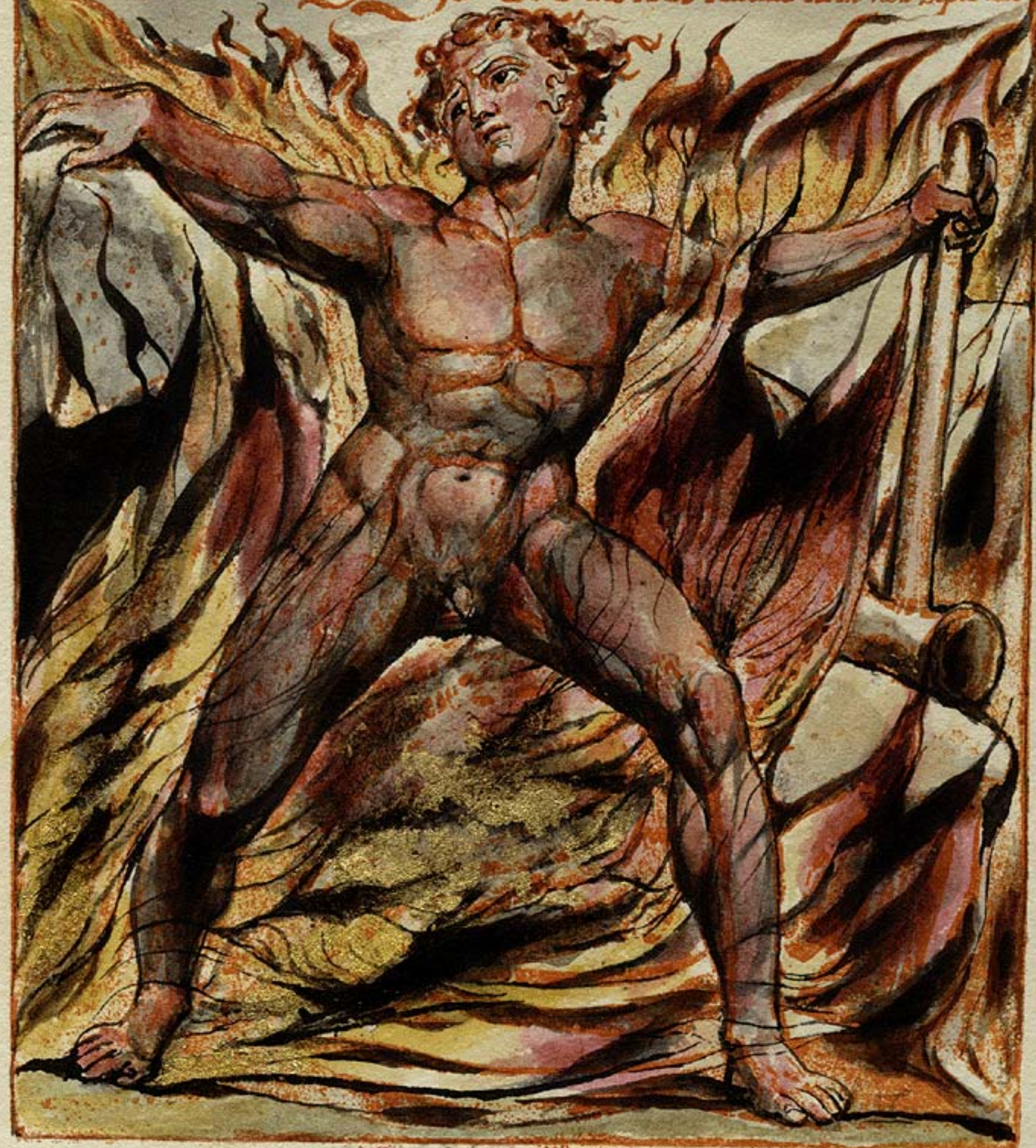
As the Eternal Prophet was divided
Before the death image of Urogen
In a wondrous night beneath
The Abyss of Los stretch'd immense
And now seen, now obscure to the eyes
Of Eternals, the visions remote

As the dark separation appeared
As planets discover Worlds
In the endless Abyss of space
So the expanding eyes of Immortals
Beheld the dark visions of Los
And the globe of life bleed trembling



Written. C. V.

8. The globe of life blood trembled	9. All Eternity shuddered at sight
Branching out into roots:	Of the first female now separate
Fibrous, writhing upon the winds:	Pale as a cloud of snow
Fibres of blood, milk and tears:	Waving before the face of Loos
In pangs, eternity on eternity,	
At length in tears & cries unbodyed	10. Wonder, awe, fear, astonishment,
A female form, trembling and pale	Petrify the eternal myriads;
Waves before his deathly face	At the first female form now separate





They call'd her Pity, and Red;

11. Spread a Tent, with strong curtains around them
Let cords & 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 infinite labour the Eternals
A web wove, 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
Man begetting his Whensels
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 Enitharmon's loins sliding

6. Coild within Enitharmon's womb
The serpent grew casting its scales
With sharp pangs the hissing began
To change to a grating cry
Many sorrows and dismal throes
Many forms of fish, 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
Produced 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
Issued from Enitharmon

10. The Eternals, closed the tent
They beat down the stakes the cords

Urizen C. VII

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

1. In his hands he seiz'd the infant
He bathed him in springs of sorrow
He gave him to Enitharmon.

2. They named the Child Orc, he grew
Fed with milk of Enitharmon

3. 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
Grew round his bosom. In sobbings
Again he burst it. Again
Another girdle succeeds.
The girdle was form'd by day.
By night was burst in twain.

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

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 pangs 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 brazen quadrant:
He form'd golden compasses
And began to explore the Abyss
And he plant'd a garden of Trees

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, & wilderness
With a globe of fire lighting his
journey
A fearful journey, annoy'd
By cruel enormities, turns

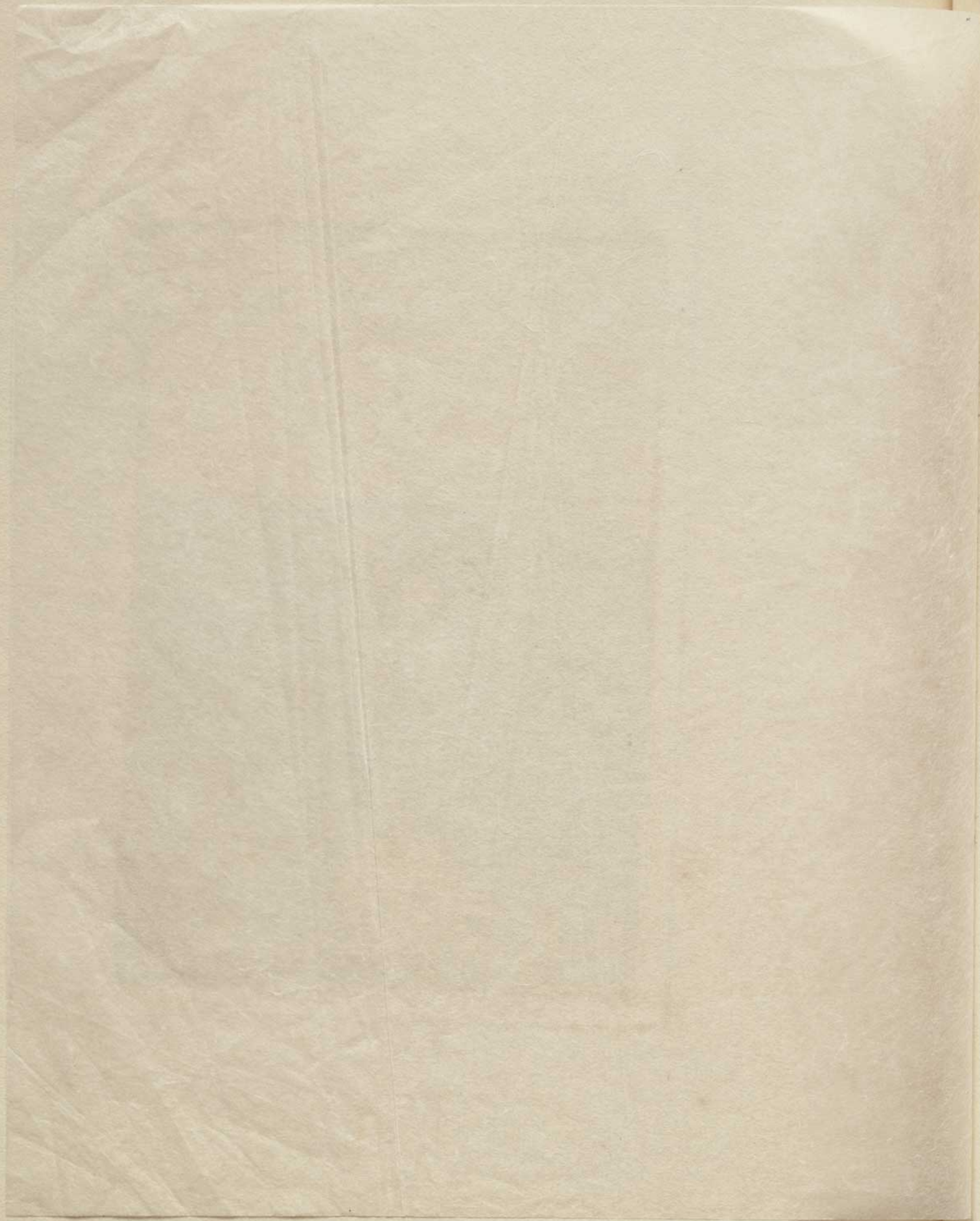


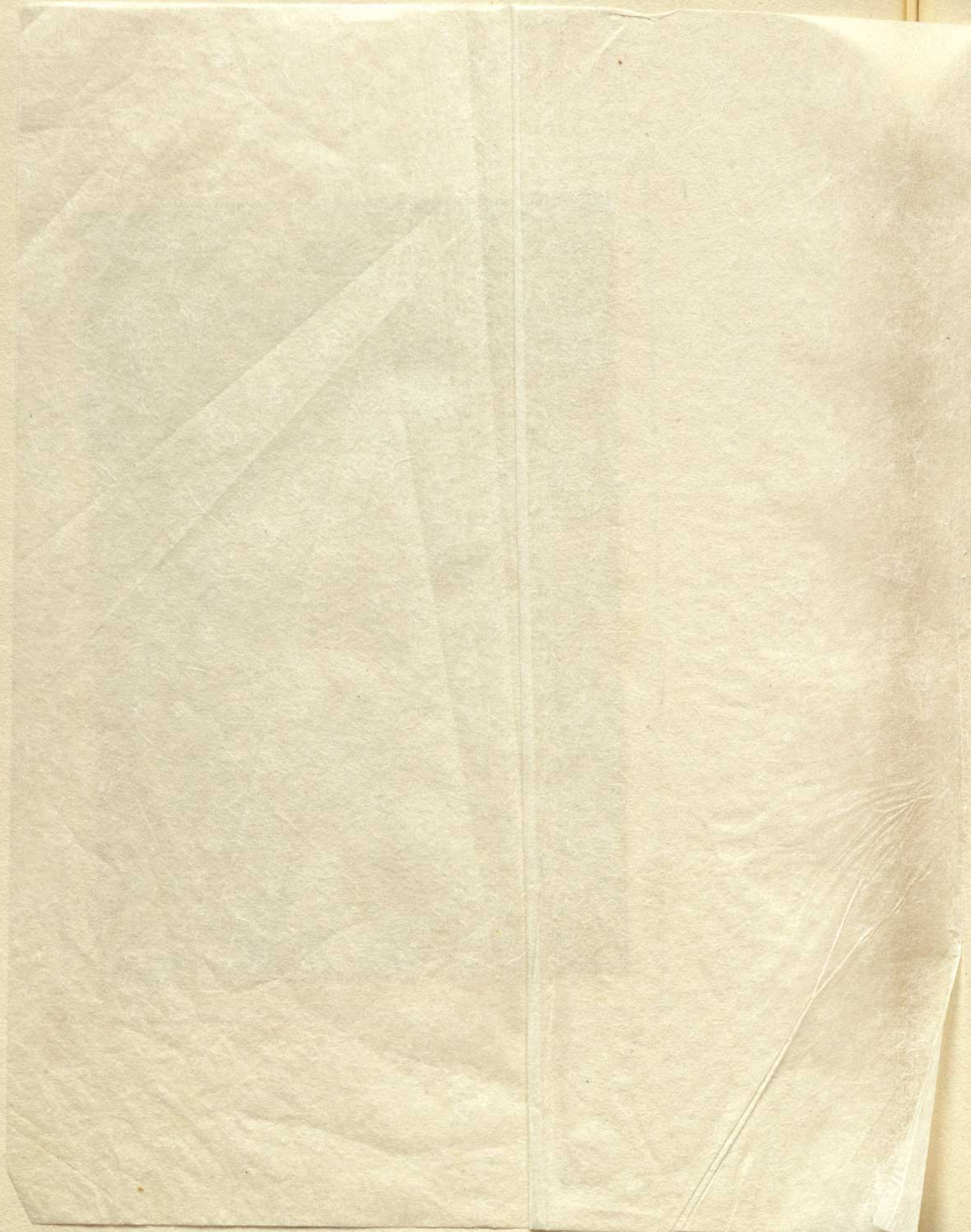


Of life on his forsaken mountains
 And his world wand'ring enormities
 Frightning; faithless; lawning
 Portions of life; snailitudes
 Of a foot, or a hand, or a head
 Or a heart, or an eye, they swim mis-
 chevous
 Dread terrors; delijung in blood
 Most Urizen sickend to see
 His eternal creations appear
 Sons & daughters of sorrow on mountains
 Weeping; wailing; first Thural appear'd
 Astonish'd at his own existance
 Like a man from a cloud born, & Utha
 From the waters emerging; lamenty;



Grodna rent the deep earth howling
 Amaz'd! his heavens immense cracks
 Like the ground parch'd wih heat; then
 Fuzon
 Flamd out; first begotten, last born.
 All his eternal sons in like manner
 His daughters from green herbs & cattle
 From musters, & worms of the pit.
 4. He in darkness clos'd, view'd all his
 race
 And his soul sickend; he curs'd
 Both sons & daughters; for he saw
 That no flesh nor spirit could keep
 His iron laws one moment.
 5. For he saw that life liv'd upon
 death







Chap: IX

The Ox in the slaughter house moans
 The Dog at the windy door
 And he wept, & he called it Fity
 And his tears flowed down on the mead
 6. Could he wander'd on high, ever
 Their cities
 In weeping & pain, as wine!
 And where ever he wanders in sorrows
 Upon the aged heavens
 A cold shadow follow'd behind him
 Like a spiders web, moist, cold, & dim
 Drawing out from his sorrowing soul
 The dungeon-like heaven dividing
 Where ever the footsteps of Urizen
 Walk'd over the cities in sorrow.

7. Till a Web dark & cold, throughout all
 The tormented 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.

8. So twisted the coils, & so knotted
 The meshes; twisted like to the
 human brain

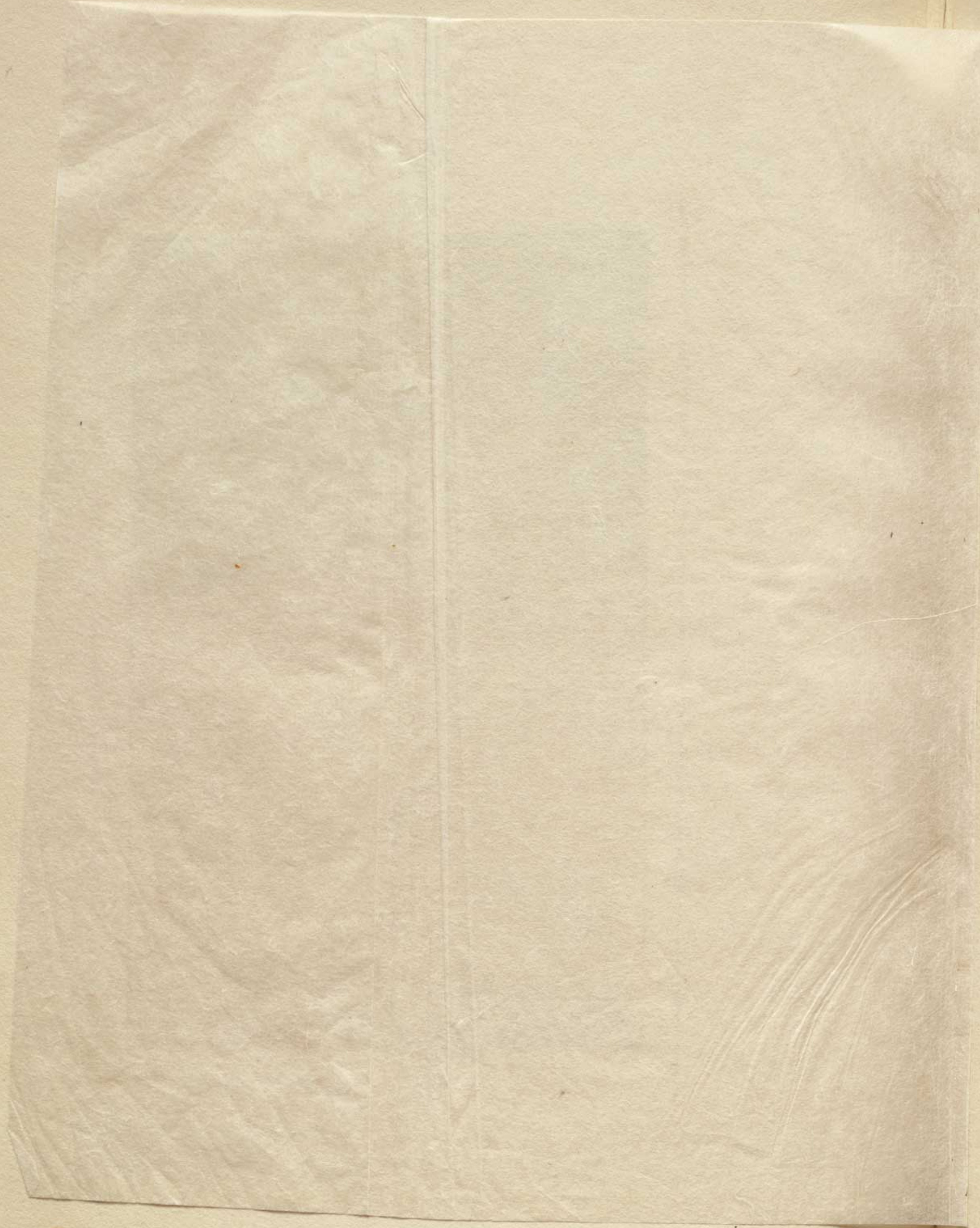
9. And all call'd it, the Net of Feli

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

2. Till the shrunken eyes clouded over
 Dispers'd not the wov'n hypocrisy
 But the streaky slane 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

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 infinite void, but bound down
 To earth by their narrowing perceptions



Urizen. C. IX.

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 form'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 stank together
 Beneath the Net of Urizen:
 Perswasion was in vain.

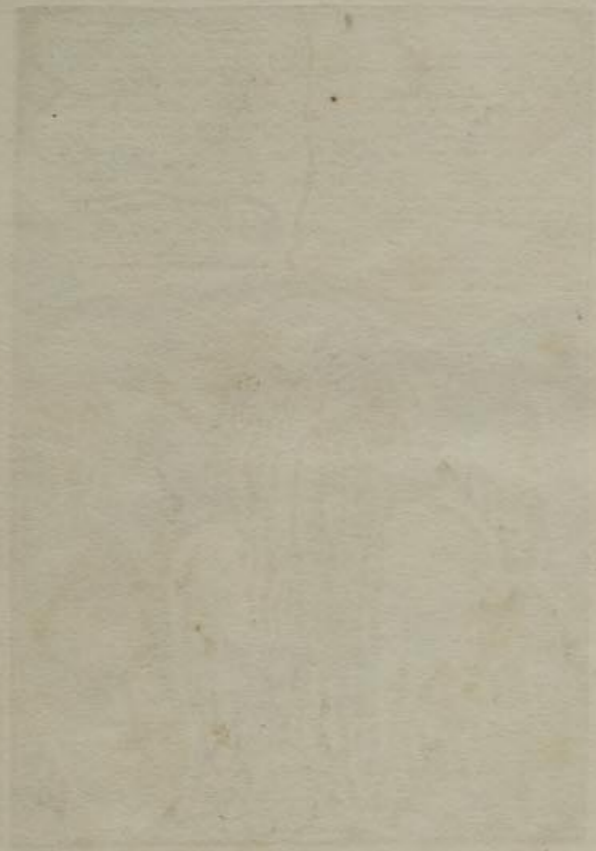
For the eyes of the inhabitants
 Were wither'd, & deafen'd, & cold:
 And their eyes could not discern
 Their brethren of other cities.

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

9. And the salt ocean roll'd engulf'd

The End of the
 book of Urizen.





end 521

6307
02 5/11/1905
1505
33
91510

Blake, William

PR4144

F5

1815

Roosevelt
coll.

MS. 11. 1. 49

