

## 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



[Link to text](#)

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



[Link to text](#)

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



[Link to text](#)

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.



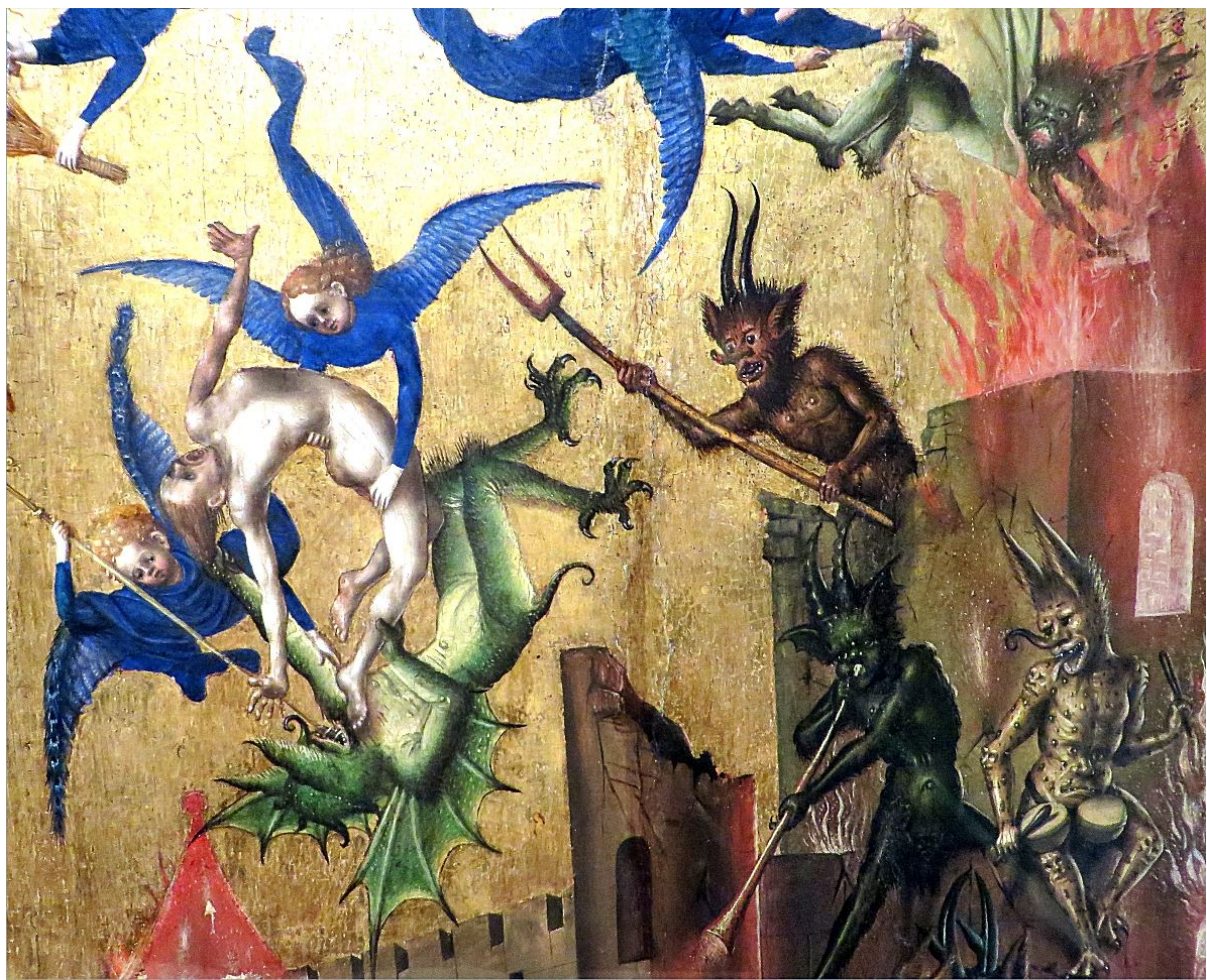
[Link to text](#)

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



[Link to text](#)

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.



[Link to text](#)

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



[Link to text](#)

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.



[Link to text](#)

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:



[Link to text](#)