

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Compiled by
Campbell M gold

(2010)

CMG Archives
<http://campbellmgold.com>

--()--

Introduction

What are the "Seven Deadly Sins"?

Contrary to popular belief, the Seven Deadly Sins never occur as a formal or definitive list in the Bible. Some scholars suggest that all the seven sins can be found in the Gospel of St Matthew (chs 5 - 7); however, they are not contained in a simple list.

So who compiled the list?

The seven deadly sins were first introduced by Pope Gregory the Great (540-604). He developed his list from two sources:

- 1) The "eight evil thoughts" as described by the Greek monastic theologian, Evagrius of Pontus (346-399), a Christian spiritual writer
- 2) The eight principal vices as described by St. John Cassian (c. 360-435).

Evagrius' List of Eight Sins

The eight thoughts of evil as described by Evagrius, in order of highest to lowest seriousness are:

- Pride
- Vainglory
- Despondency
- Anger
- Discontent
- Love of Money
- Fornication
- Gluttony

Thus it was from this that Gregory reduced the original list of eight sins into to a list of seven - combining vainglory with pride, changing despondency into sadness, and adding envy.

Gregory's List Seven Sins

Gregory's ranking of the Sins' seriousness was based on the degree to which each sin offended love. Thus, from most serious to least we have:

- pride
- envy
- anger
- sadness
- avarice
- gluttony
- lust

Later theologians, including St. Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274), would refute the notion that the seriousness of the sins could be ranked in this way. Moreover, the term "covetousness" has historically been used interchangeably with "avarice" in definitions of the Deadly Sins; and in the seventeenth century, the Church replaced the vague sin of "sadness" with sloth.

Commonly Accepted List of Seven Sins

The commonly accepted "Seven Deadly Sins", as enumerated in their present form by Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century, and their "Seven virtues", are as follows:

Vice	Virtue
Pride	Humility
Envy	Kindness
Wrath	Patience
Sloth	Diligence
Greed	Charity
Gluttony	Temperance
Lust	Chastity

Sins and Associated Devil

Peter Binsfeld (c. 1545/6-1598), a German bishop and theologian, in 1589, paired each of the seven deadly sins with a specific demon, who tempted people by means of the associated sin.

The association of Binsfeld's demons is as follows:

Vice	Demon
Pride	Lucifer
Envy	Leviathan
Wrath	Satan/Amon
Sloth	Belphegor
Greed	Mammon
Gluttony	Beelzebub
Lust	Asmodeus

Sins and Associated Punishment in Hell

Images, which appeared in, *Le grant kalendrier des Bergiers*, printed by Nicolas le Rouge, Troyes, 1496, depict each of the Seven Deadly Sins with its associated punishment in Hell.

George Pencz, a 16th-century engraver, used animals in the depictions of the Sins - these are noted below:

Sin	Punishment in Hell
Pride	broken on the wheel
Envy	put in freezing water
Wrath	dismembered while alive
Sloth	thrown in snake pits
Greed	put in cauldrons of boiling oil
Gluttony	forced to eat rats, toads, and snakes
Lust	smothered in fire and brimstone

Pencz Animal	Colour
Horse	Violet
Dog	Green
Bear	Red
Goat	Light Blue
Frog	Yellow
Pig	Orange
Cow	Blue

--()--

Images of the Punishments for the Seven Deadly Sins

The following images appeared in, *Le grant kalendrier des Bergiers*, printed by Nicolas le Rouge, Troyes, 1496

(Picture below - Sin of Pride: Broken on the wheel)



--()--

(Picture below - Sin of Envy: Put in freezing water)



--()--

(Picture below - Sin of Wrath: Dismembered while alive)



--()--

(Picture below - Sin of Sloth: Thrown in snake pits)



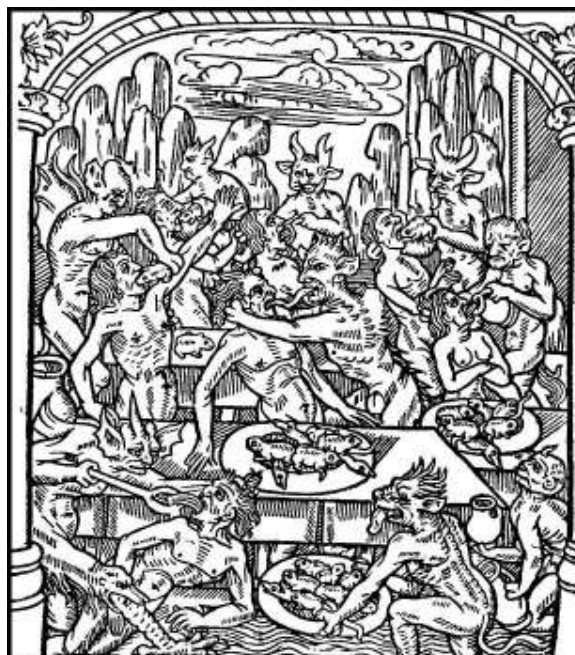
--()--

(Picture below - Sin of Greed: Boiled alive in oil)



--()--

(Picture below - Sin of Gluttony: forced to eat rats, toads, and snakes)



--()--

(Picture below - Sin of Lust: smothered in fire and brimstone)



End

--()--

CMG Archives
<http://campbellmgold.com>

30032010