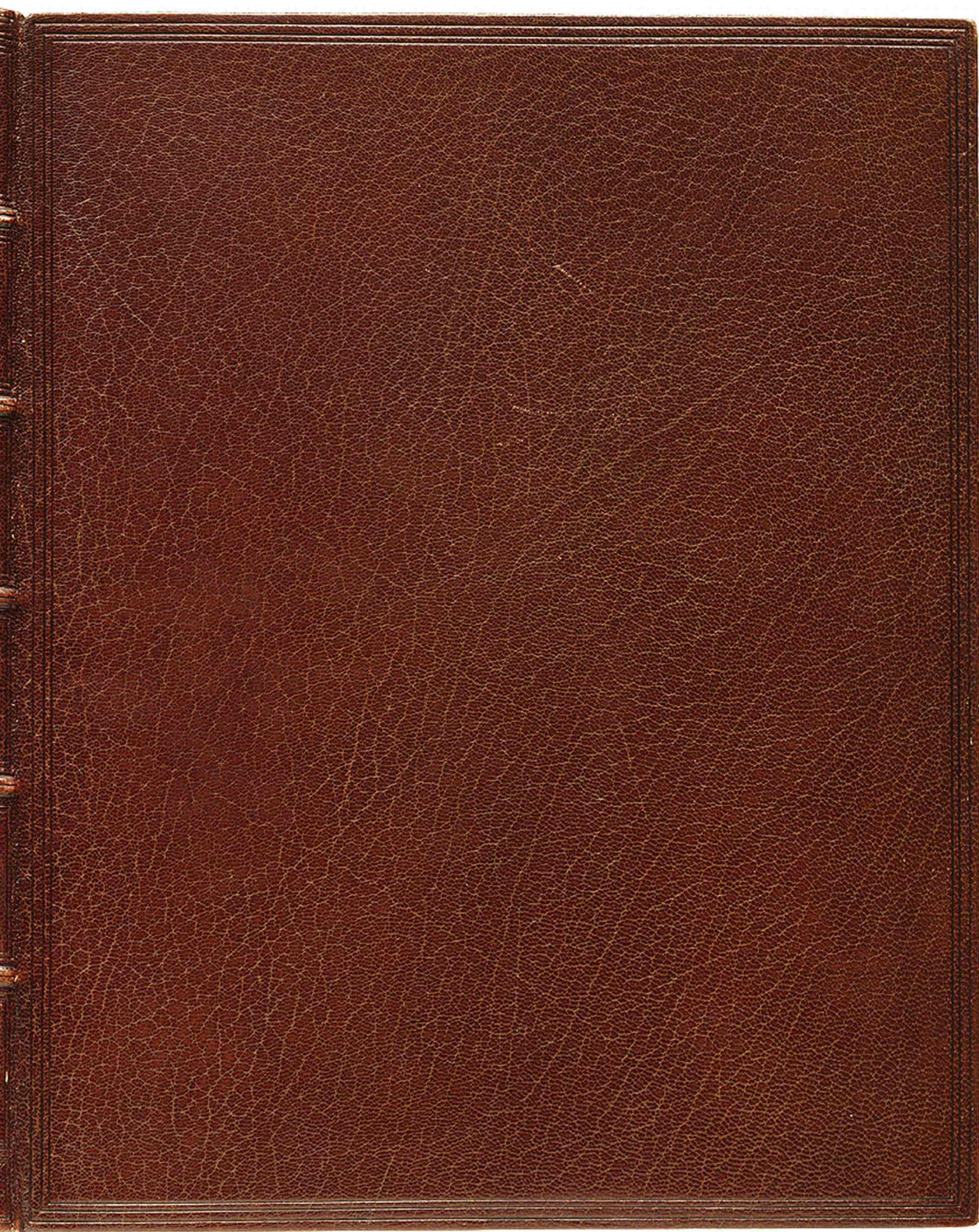


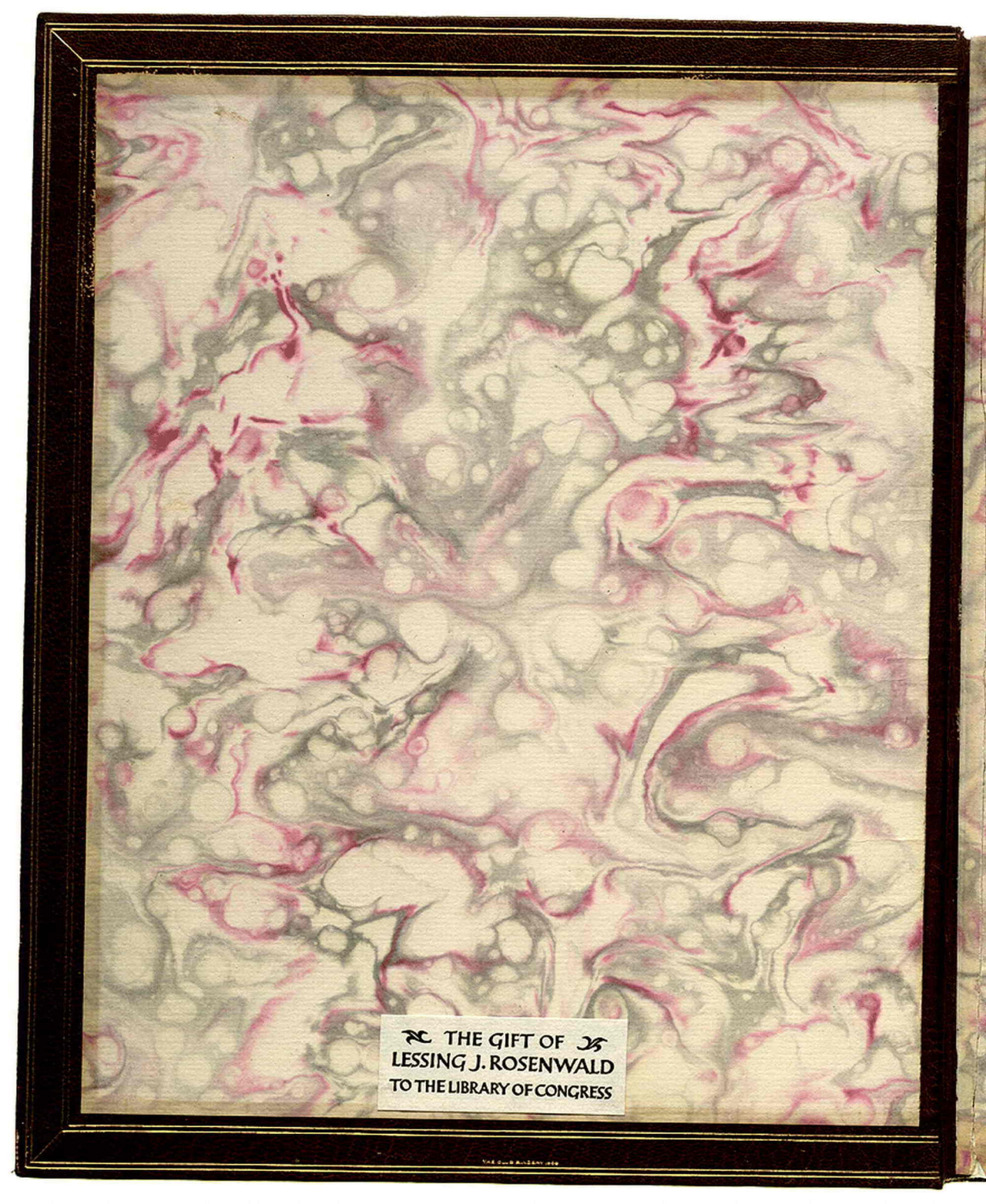
BLAKE

—

URIZEN

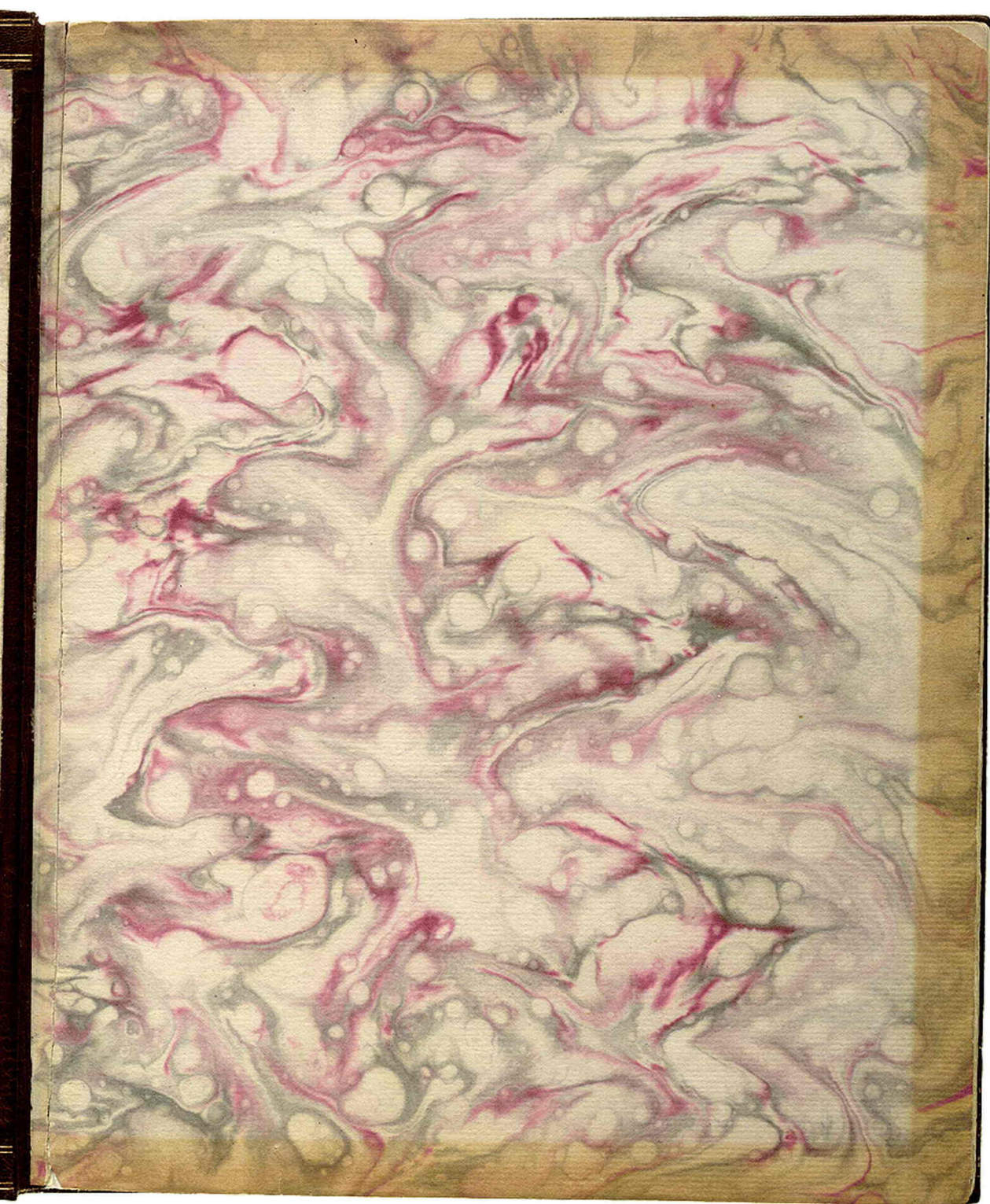
1794





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

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

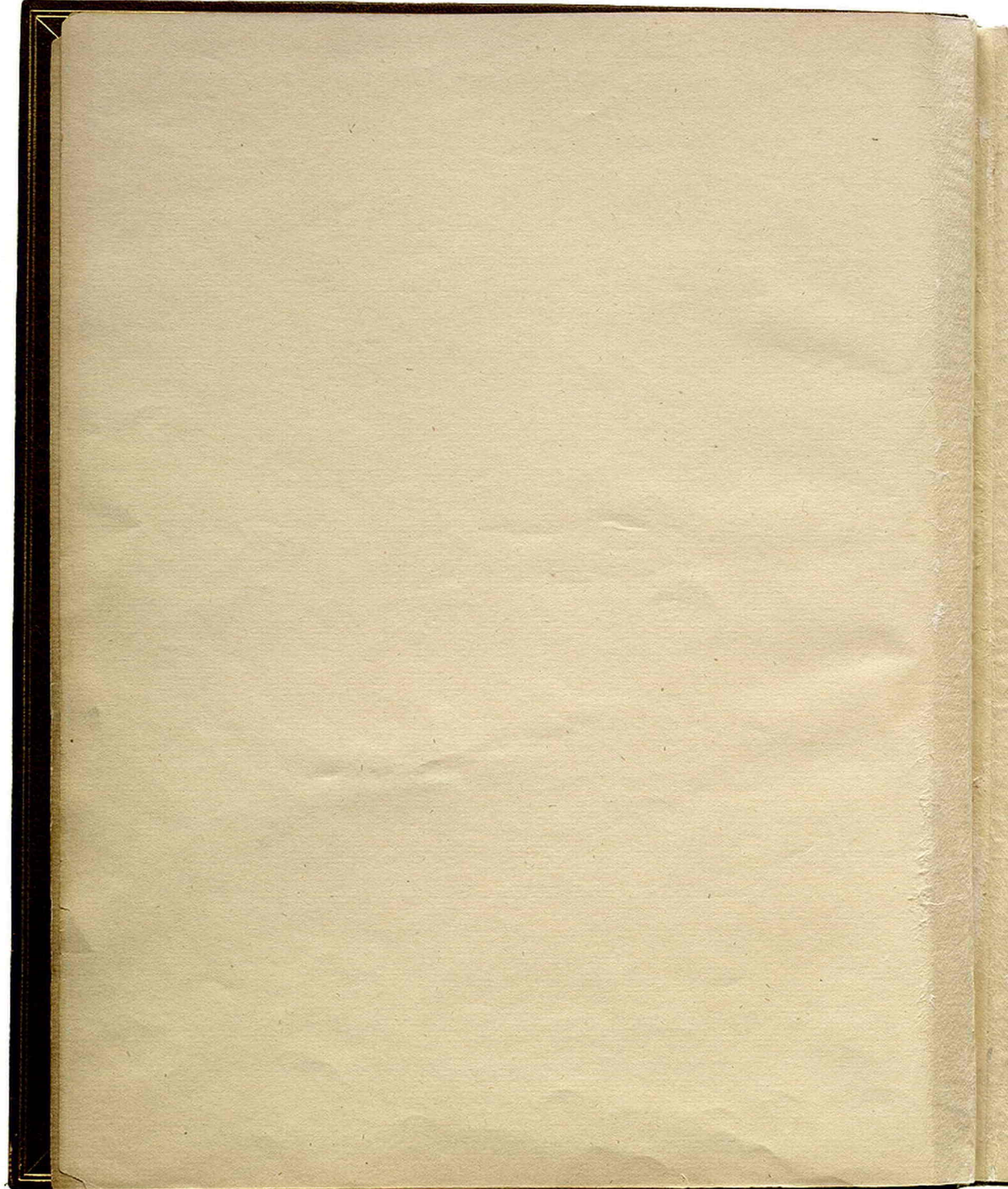


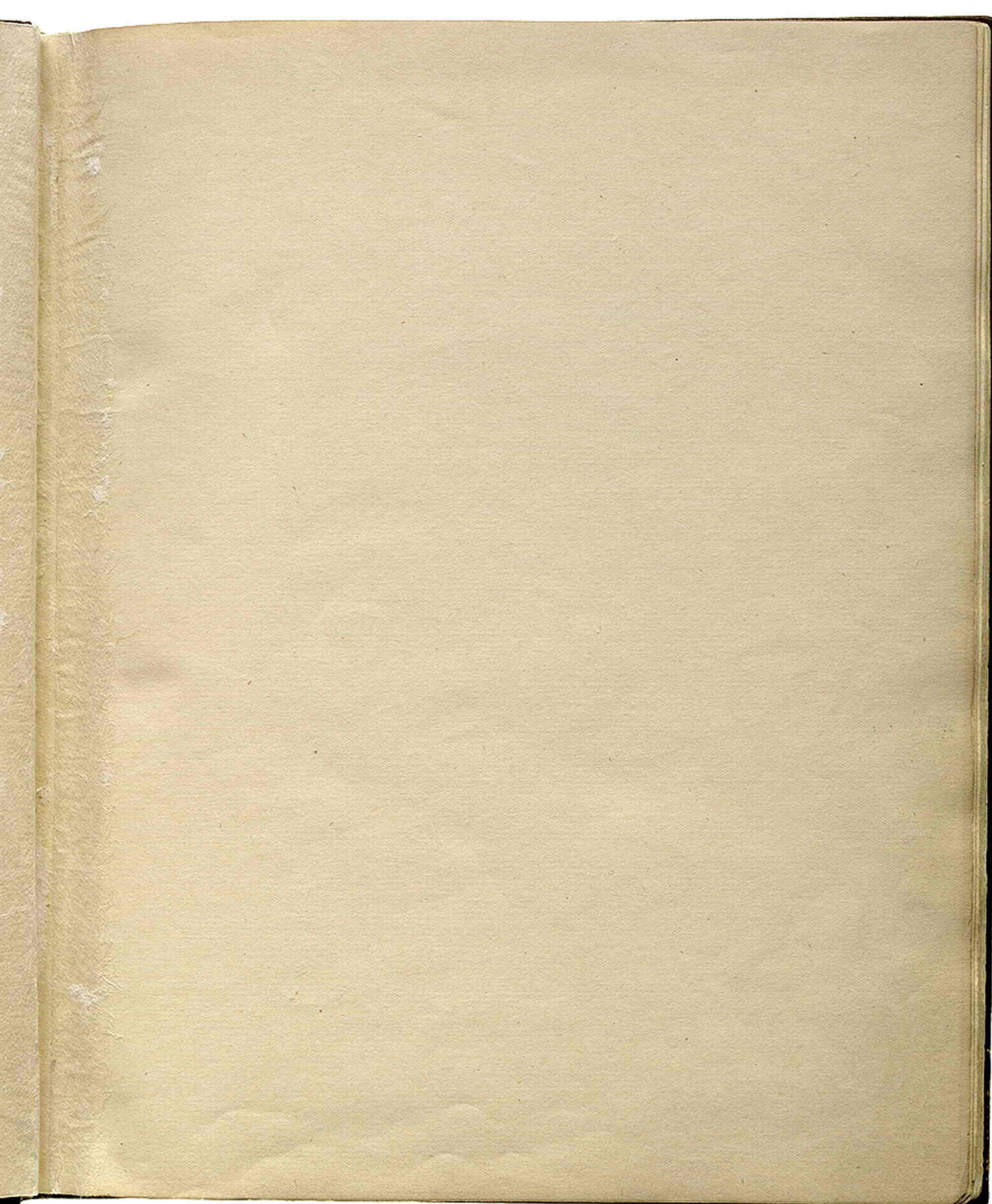
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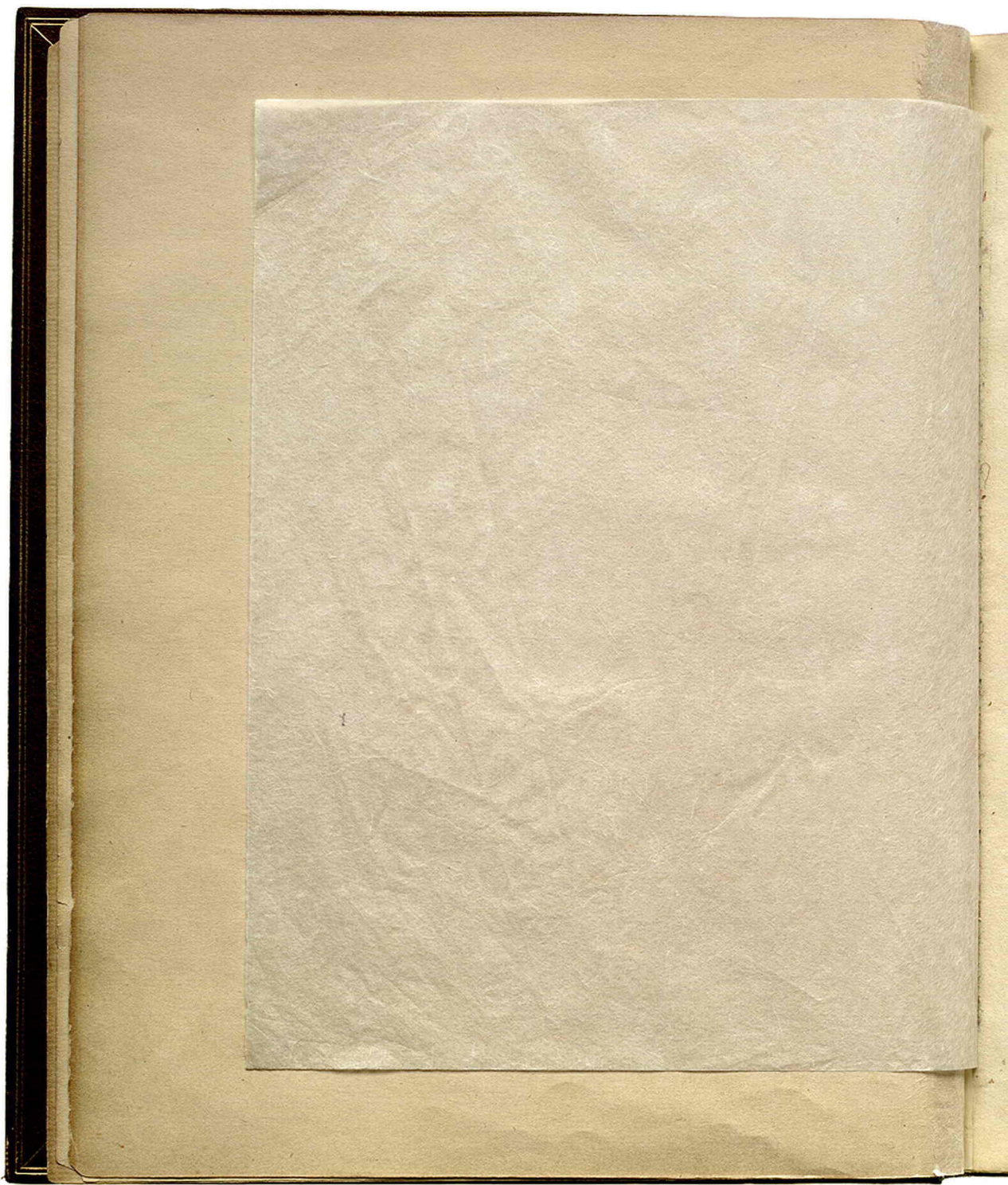
Settling B. L. lot
back of Crown Sale (among Monrovia Hillines)

water mark, 1815

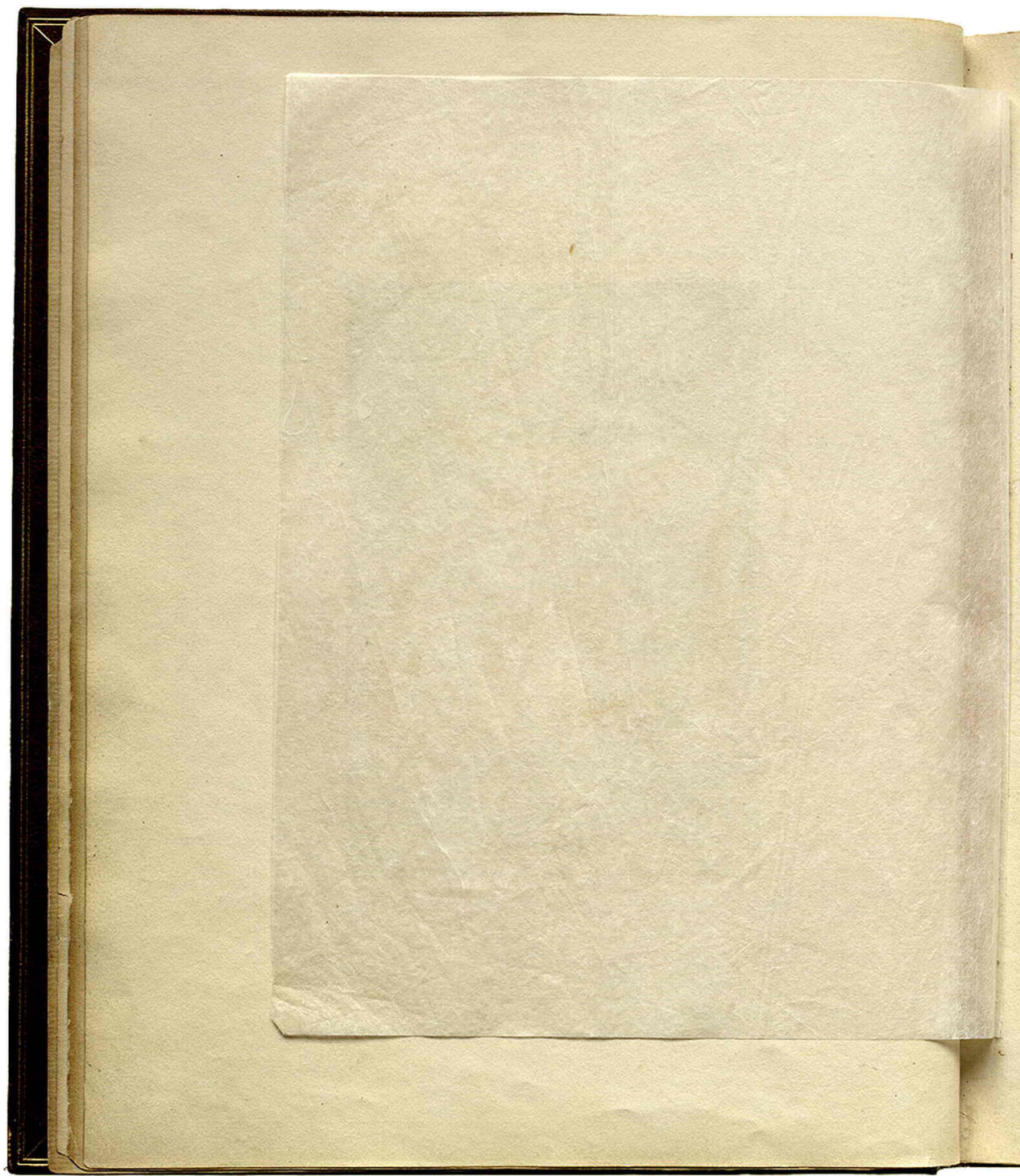
W. A. White
Apr 20 - 1903



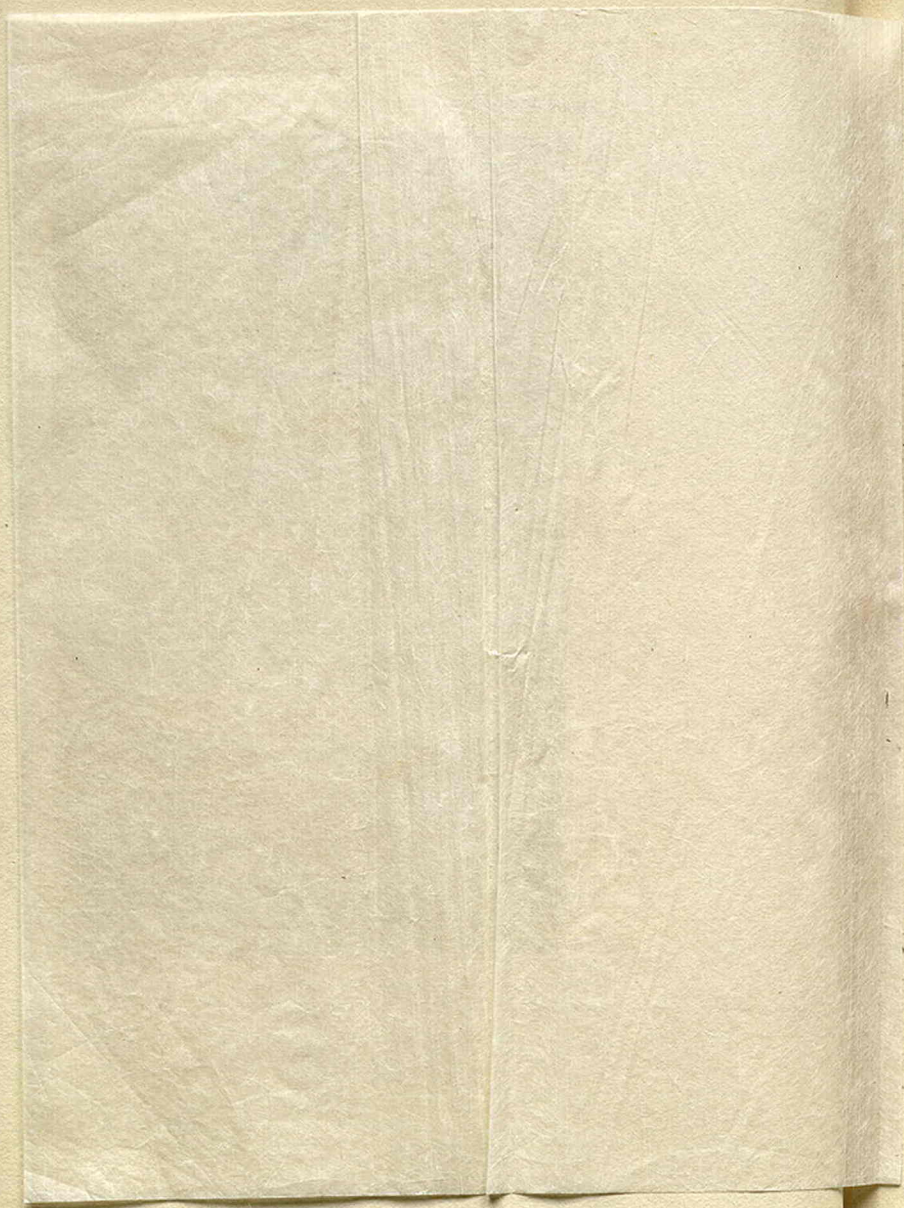












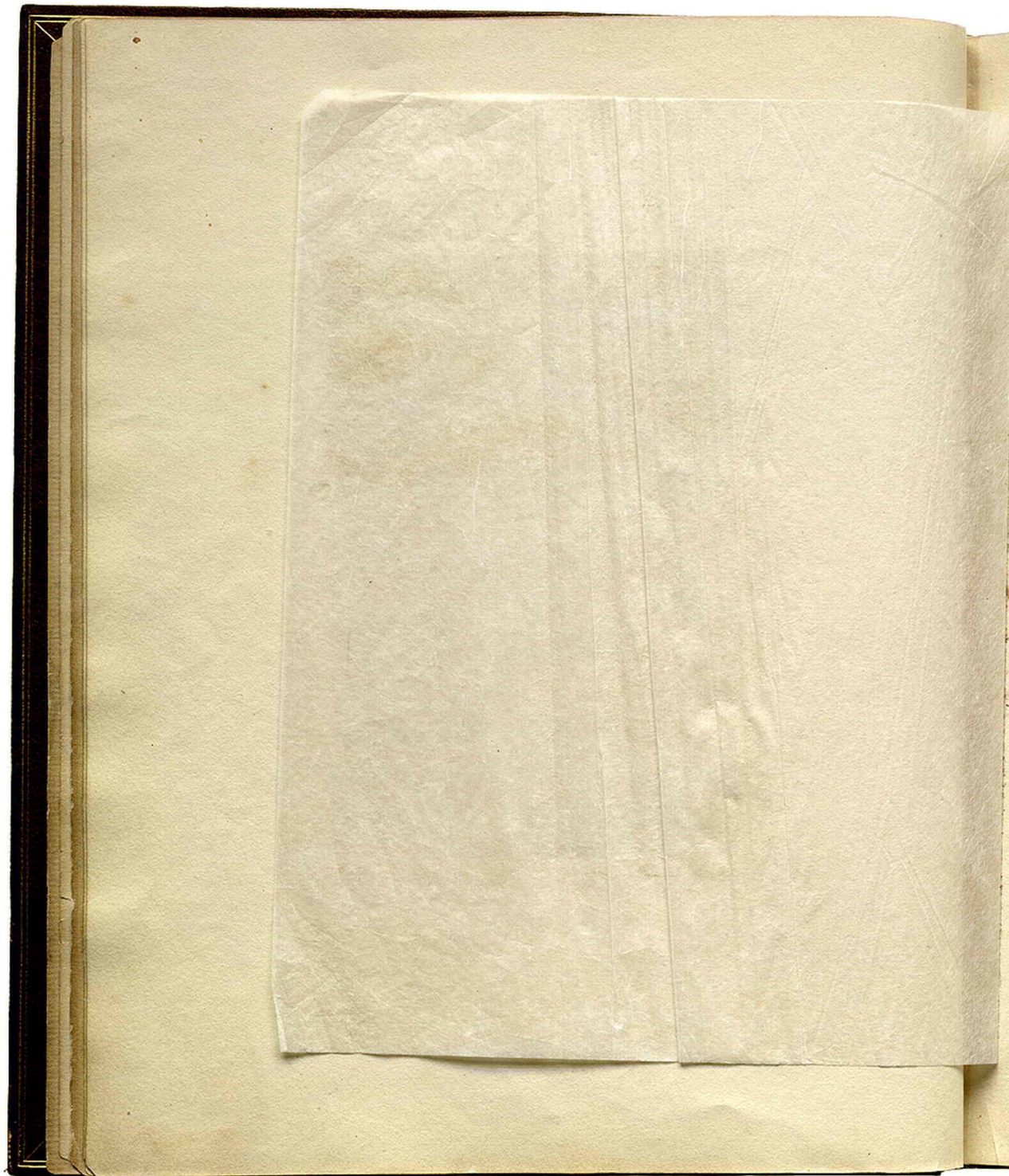


Chap: I

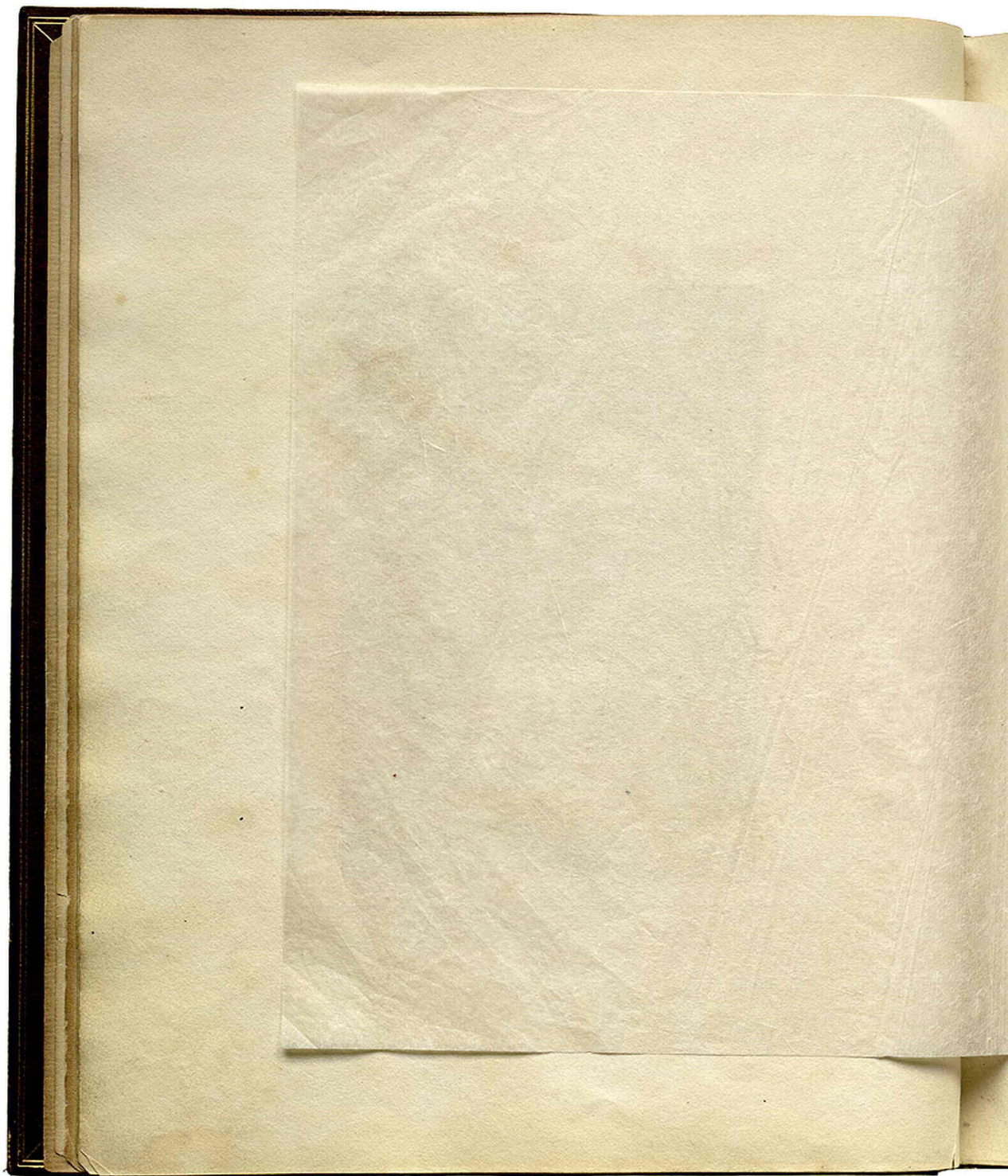
1. Lo, a shadow of horror is risen,
In Eternity! unknown, unprolific;
Self-clas'd, all-repelling, what Demon
Hath form'd this abominable void?
This soul-shudd'ring vacuum? — Some
staid, stupor'd, his ten thousands of thousand
To be seen, But unknown, absorbed
Brooding shut in the deep; all eyes
Blinding secret, the dark power hid.
The cloud world, to the rolling of wheels
As of swelling seas, bound in his clasp;
2. Times on times he divided himself
In his hills of start'ning, in his caverns
Once by space in his ghastral darkness
Of had as ever voices of terror.
Unknown: changes appear'd
Fire heard, like thunders of action;
In his dark late mounting rebel fires,
When the dust blazes over the harvest
By its black winds of perturbation.

Chap: II

3. For he stood in battles dire
In unseen confessions with shapes
And from his loathen wilderness
Beast, bird, fish, serpent & element
Combustion blast, vapour and cloud
4. Dark revelling in silent activity
Listen to tormenting passions;
An activity unknown and horrible
A self-contemplating shadow,
In enormous labours occupied
1. Earth was not; nor globes of atoms
The will of the immortal expanded
He contracted her all flexible spaces
Death was not, but eternal life sprang
2. The sound of a trumpet the heavens
Spoke as vast clouds of blood red
Round the dim rocks of Uryen so round
That solitary one in loneliness
Dread the trumpet; & cryest of fear









In living creations appear'd
In the flames of eternal fire.

3. Sundry, darkning, thundering;
Rent away with a terrible crash
Eternity roll'd wide apart
Wide asunder rolling
Fountaneous all around

Departing; departing; departing;
Leaving ruinous fragments of life
Tapping ironing cliffs & all between
An ocean of madness unthrottled

4. The roaring fires ran o'er the leaves
In whirlwinds & convulsions of blood
Laid o'er the dark deserts of Urizen
Fires pour thro' the void on all sides
On Urizens self-begotten armies

5. But no light from the fires, all was
darkness
In the flames of Eternal fire

6. In fierce anguish & quenchless
flames

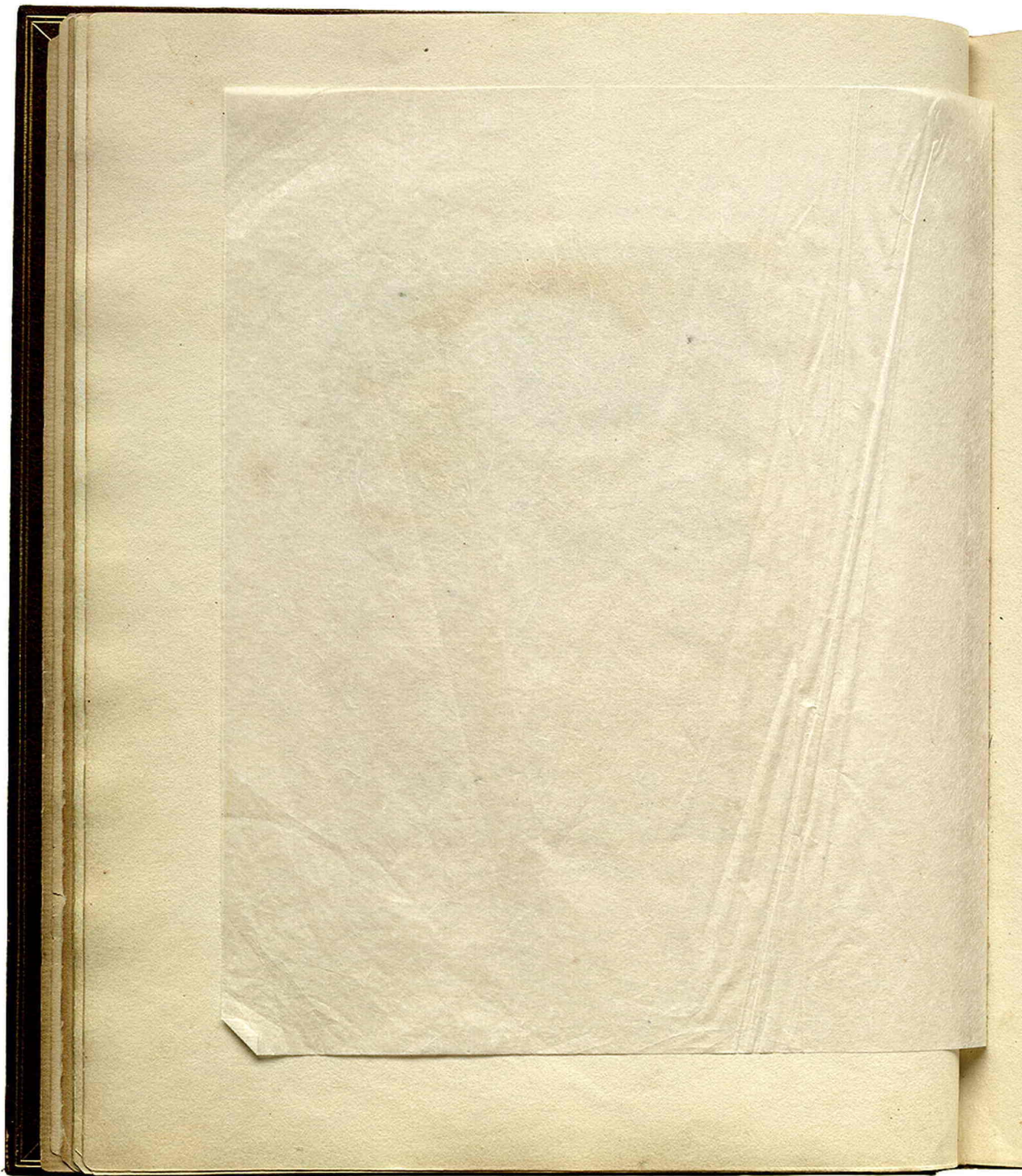
To the deserts and rocks he ro'd
To hide, but he could not; quenching
He dug mountains & hills in vast strength
He piled them in incessant labour
In heaving & plunging & fierce madly
Long periods in burning fires, labouring
Full heavy and age-laden, and aged
In despair and the shadows of death

7. And a roof vast, petrific around
On all sides he travell'd; like a vault
Where thousands of rivers in veins
Of blood pour down the mountains to o'er

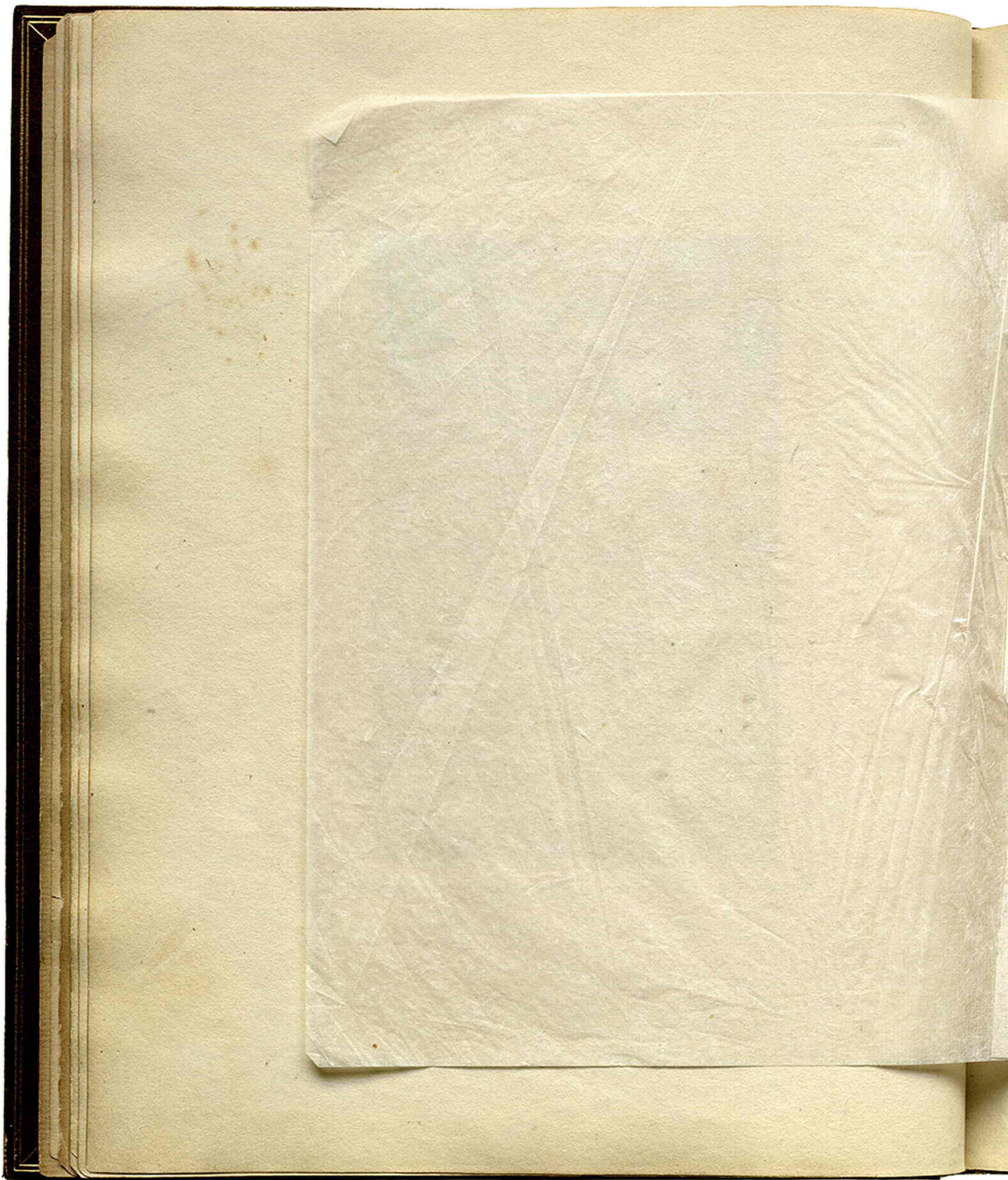
the eternal fires beating without
From Eternals; & like a black globe
Bound by seas of Eternity, standing
In the sphere of the infinite ocean
Like a human heart, struggling & beating
The vast world of Urizen appear'd

8. And Last round the dark globe of
Urizen

Kept watch for Eternals to confine,
The obscure separation alone;
For his duty stood wide apart.

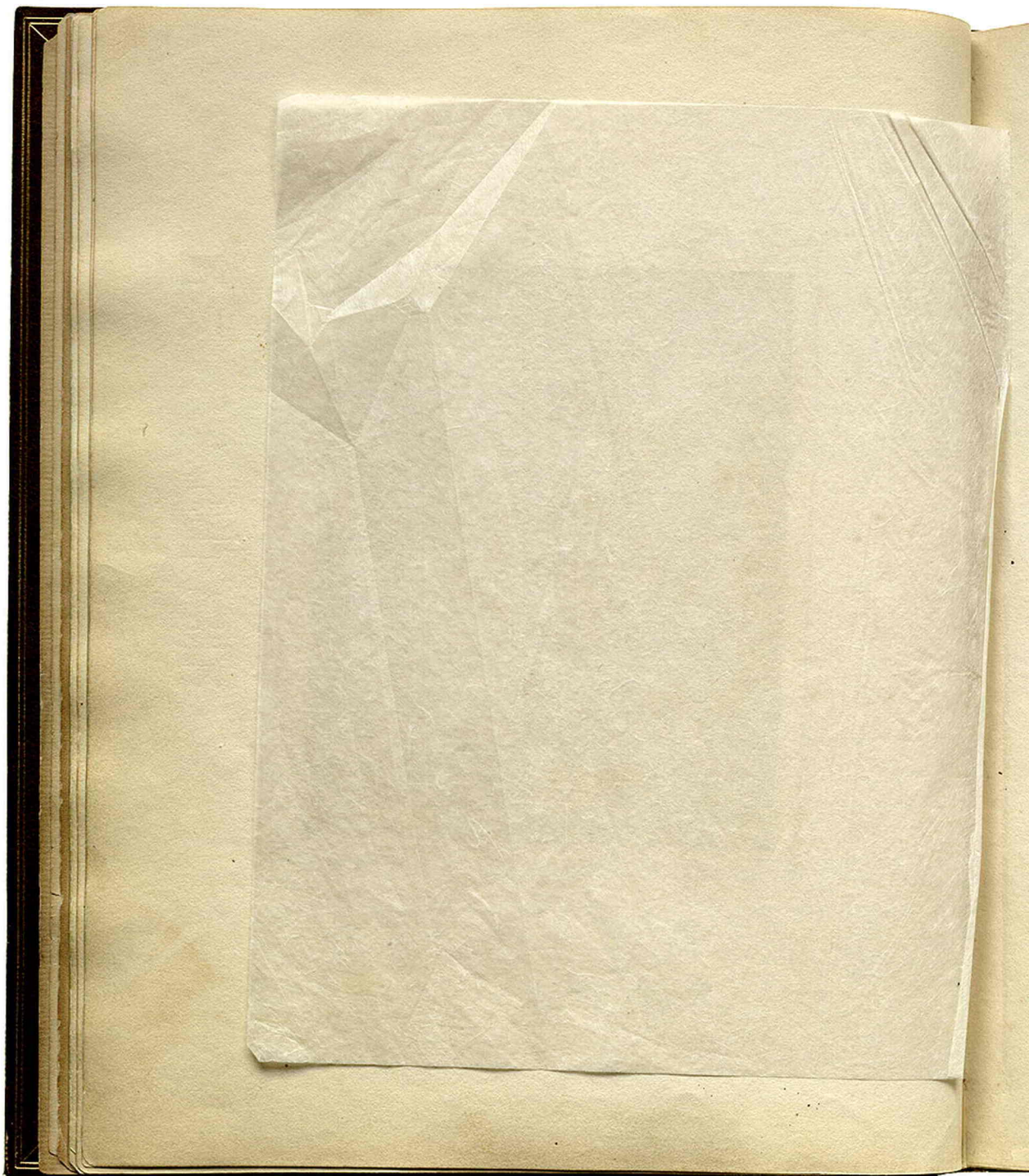




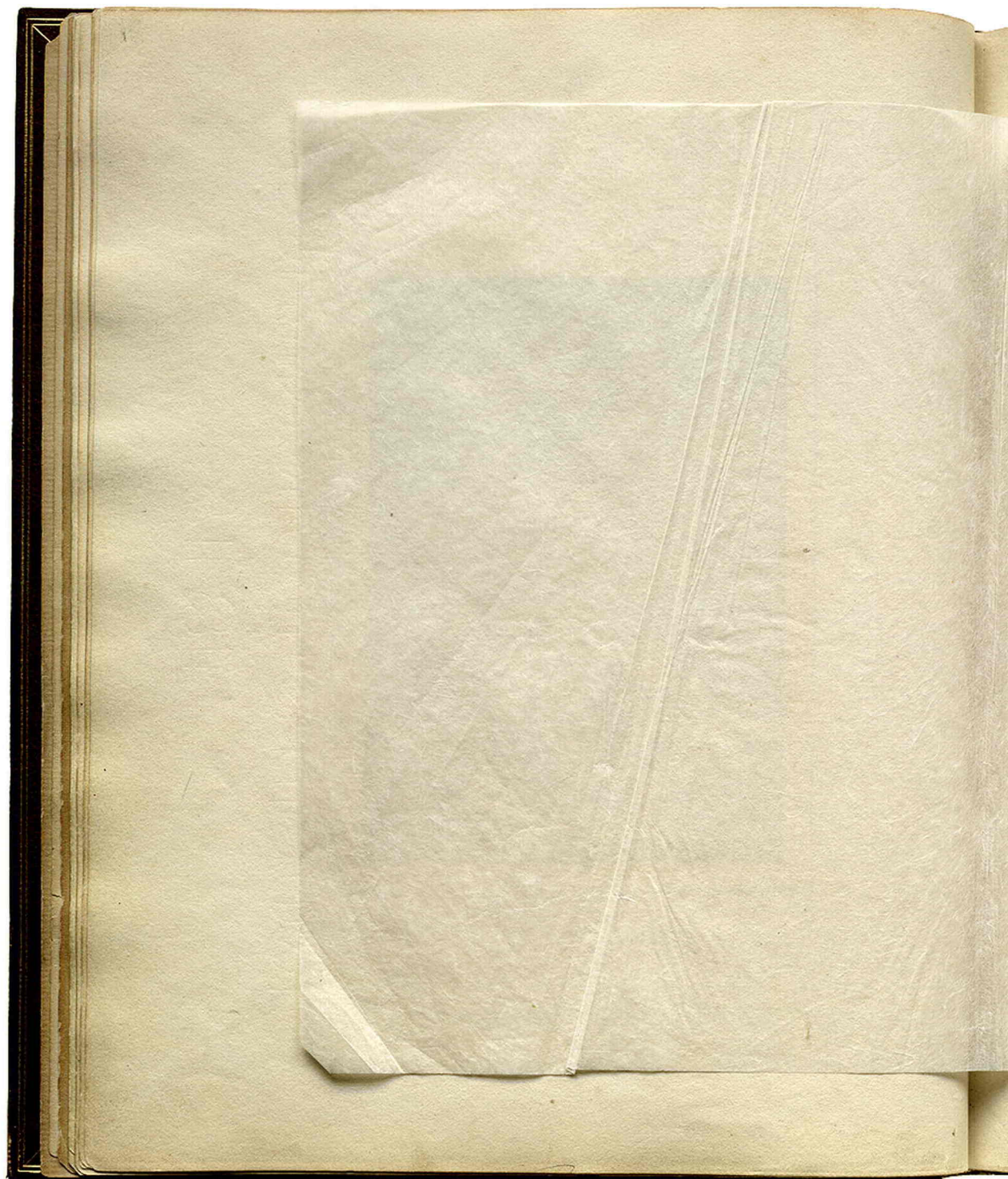


As the stars are apart from the earth (30) But Urizen laid on a stony shore
 Los wept howling around the dark Unorganiz'd rent from Eternity
 Dejection: and cursing his lot for in anguish
 Urizen was rent from his side
 And a hideous void for his feet
 And a dreary shore for his dwelling
 The Eternals said: What is this? Death
 Urizen is a clod of clay



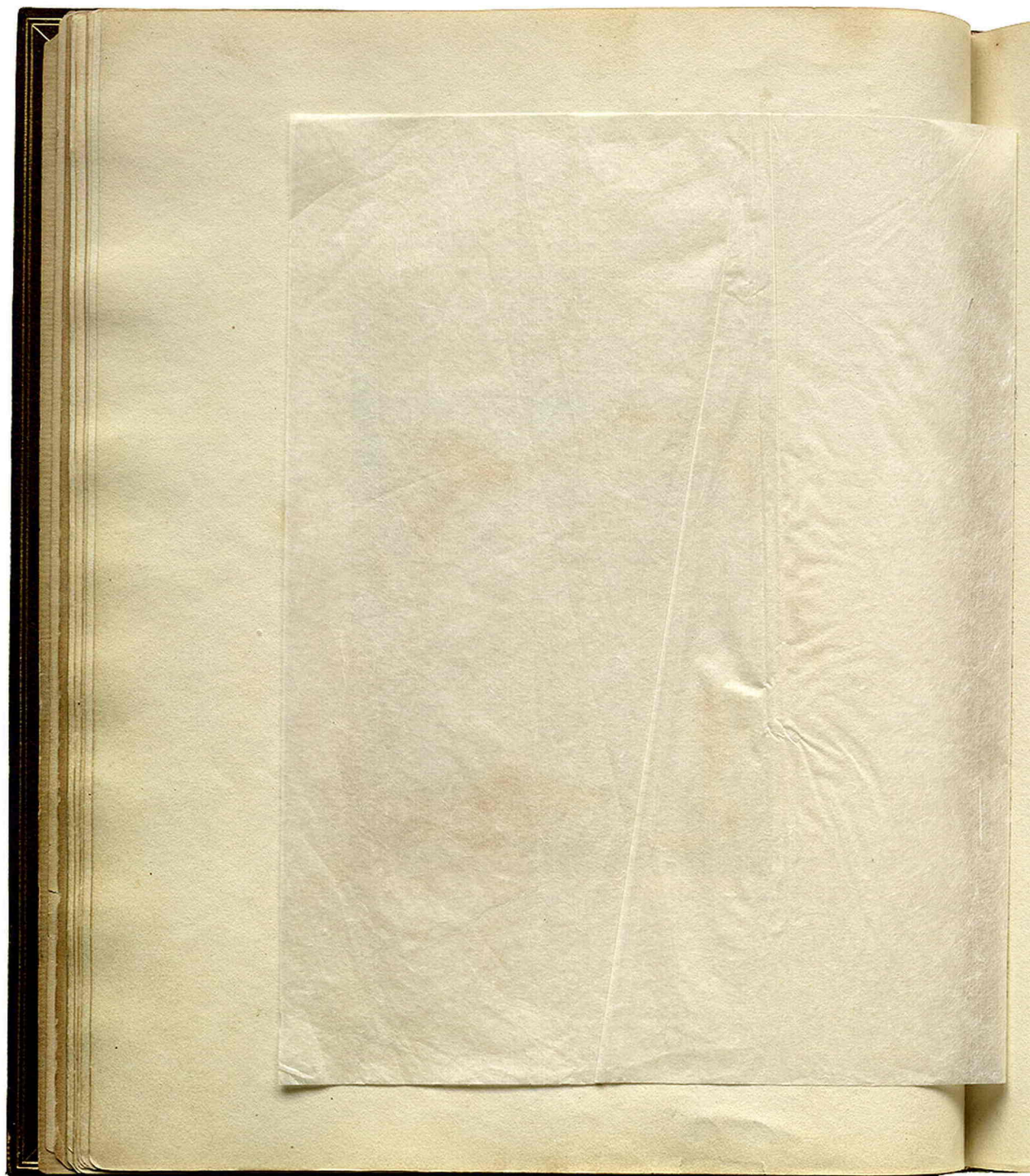






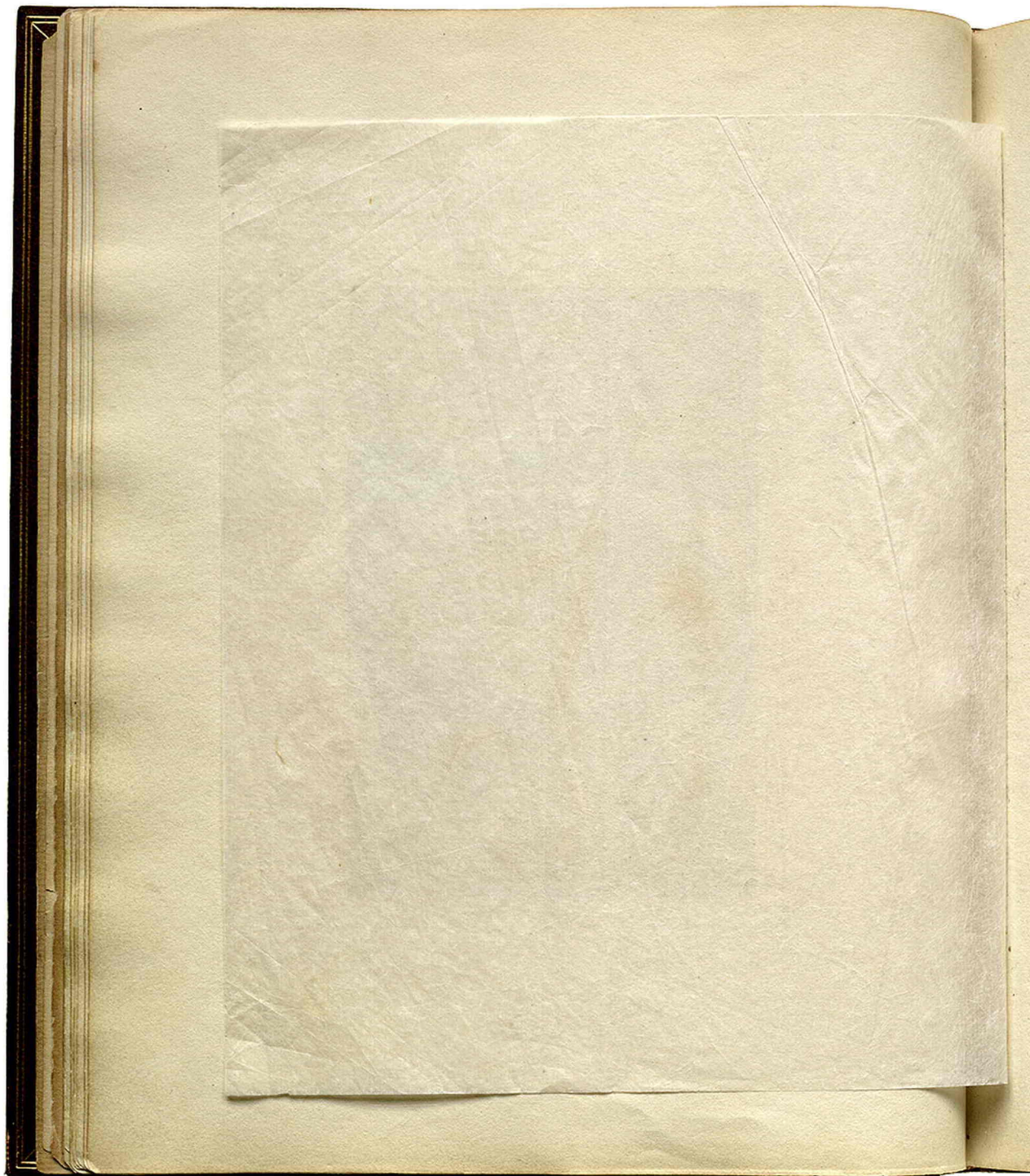
12: Lays howl'd in a dismal stupor, Picked with direful changes
 Groaning! gnashing! groaning, He lay in a dreamlike night
 Till the wrenching apart was healed, 13: Till Lays could see his liver
 14: But the wrenching of Urogen, At the furnace's immeasurable
 Could not cold, featureless, flesh or clay death.



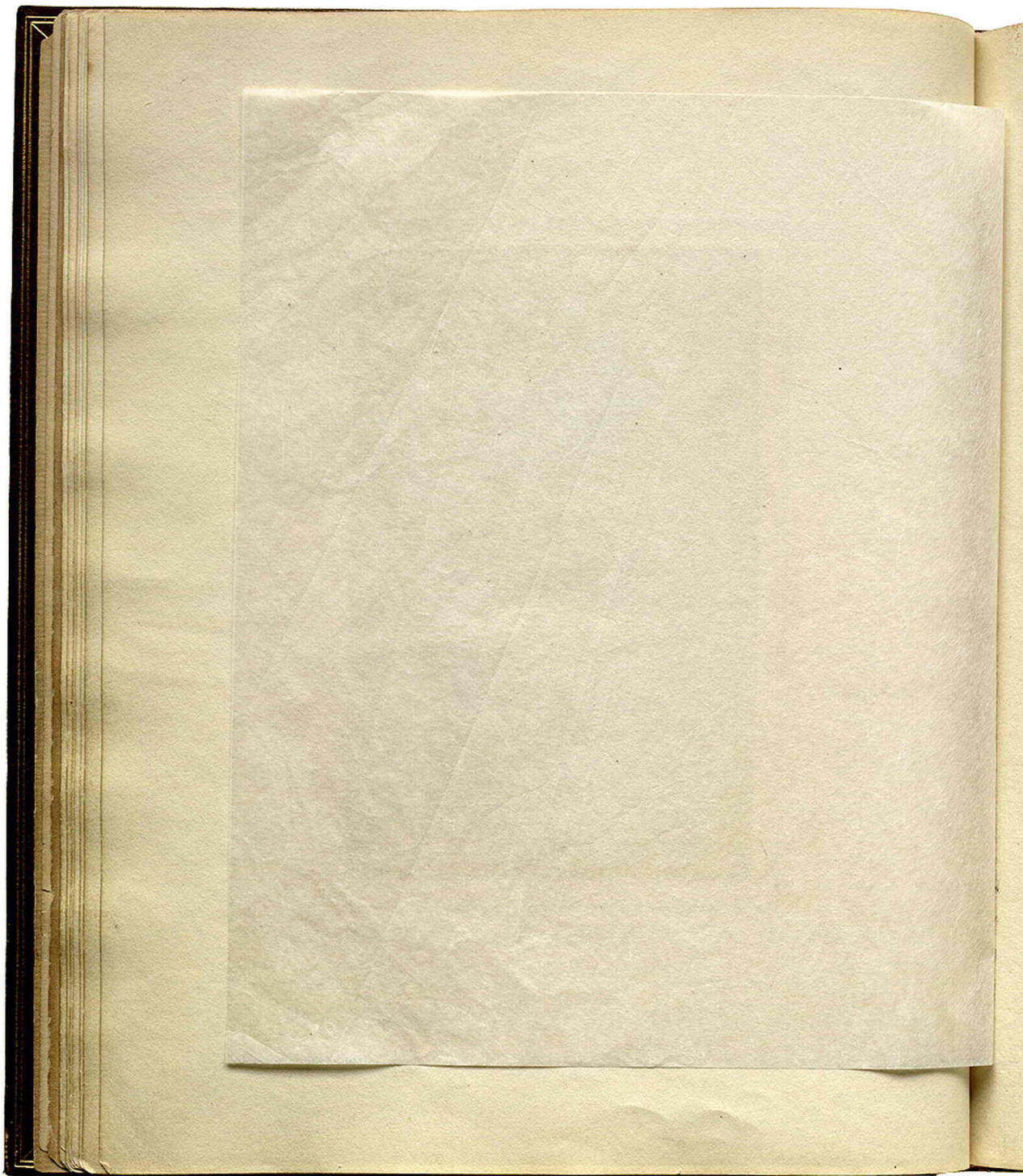


Chap: IV: - night V: And Los formes nets & gins
 1: Los smitten with astonish- And throw the nets round about
 Frightend at the huriling bones
 2: And at the surging sulphure The dark changes & found every
 -ous change so
 Perturbed Immortal mud raging With rivets of iron & brails:
 3: In whirlwinds & pitch & nitre 6. And these were the changes
 Round the furious limbs of Los of Urogen.











Chap. IV.

Ages on ages roll'd over him;
In gray sleep ages roll'd o'er him,
Like a dark mass stretching darkly
By earthquakes riven, blotching sullen
Lies
In ages roll'd ages in phaggy
Sick torment, onward him in whirlwinds
Of darkness the eternal Prophet howl'd
Beating still on his rivets of iron
Pouring sodor of iron; dividing
The horrible night into matches

And Urogen (so his eternal name)
His prolific delight obscured more & more
In dark secrecy, hiding in surgery
Sulphureous fluid his phantasies

The Eternal Prophet heard the clack
Of bellows
And heard rattle the tongs; and the
Hammer
Impatient beat; forging chains new & new
Numbing with links, hours days & years

The eternal mind howled began to roll
Edges of wrath coarsely round & round
And the sulphurous heat surging thick

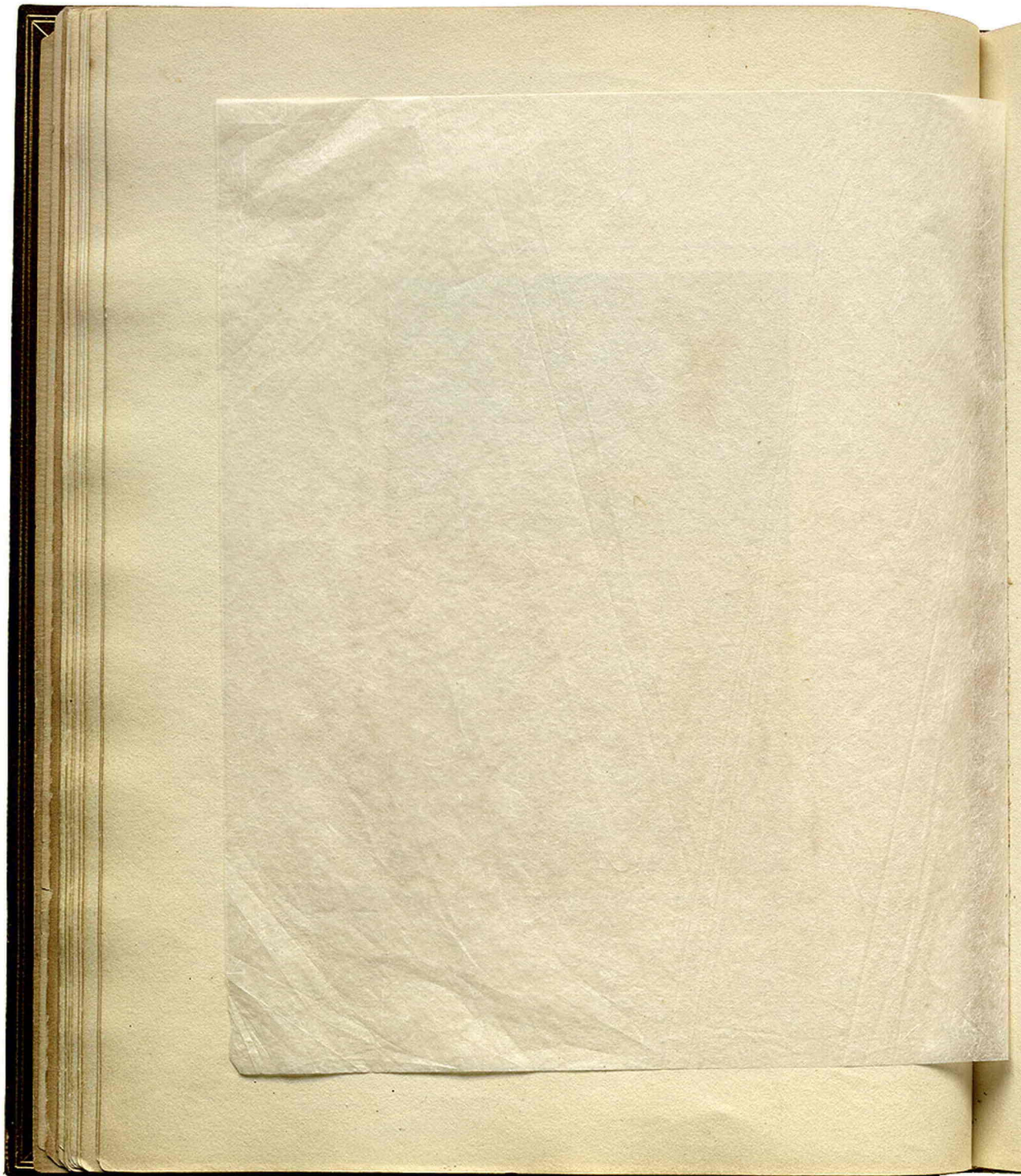
Scalded, a lake, bright, & shining clear,
White as the snow on the mountains cold

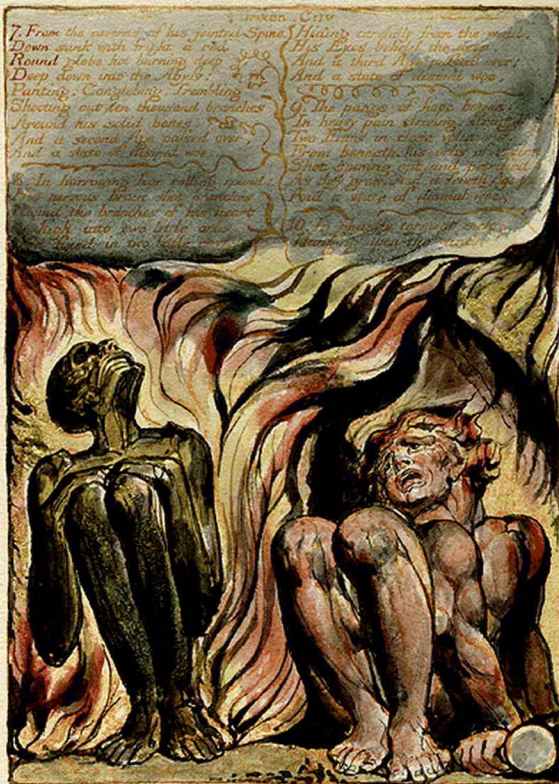
4. Forthwith, dumbly, docility,
In chains of the mind locked up,
Like fetters of ice shrinking together,
Disorganised, rose from Eternity,
Lies beat on his fetters of iron,
And heated his furnace to pour
Iron sodor and sodor of brail

5. Hostels turned the immortal unchain'd
Howling, dolorous, unquell'd, unbearable
Till a roof shaggy wild enclosed
In an orb, his fountain of thought

6. In a horrible dream of slumber,
Like the linked eternal chain;
A vast, spine writh'd, in torment
Upon the winds, affecting pain'd

Rings, like a banding, cover, or
And bones of solidness, freeze
Over all five nerves of joy
And a first Age passed over,
And a state of eternal woe









His nostrils bent down to the deep,
And a fifth Age pass'd over;
And a state of eternal we.

In trembling, & howling & dismay,
And a seventh Age pass'd over;
And a state of eternal we.

Chap.V.

11. In phantasy torment sick;
Within his ribs bloated round.
A craving, Hungry Cavern:
Thence arose his channell Throat.
And like a red flame a Tongue
Of thirst & of hunger appear'd.
And a sixth Age pass'd over;
And a state of eternal we.

1. In terrors Lest shrink from his
taste;
His great honour fell from his hand;
His fires beheld, and sickening,
Hid their strong limbs in smokes.
For with noises ruinous loud,
With hurdlings & clashing & groans
The Immortal endur'd his chains.
Who bound in a deadly sleep.

12. Enraged & stifled with torment
He threw his right Arm to the north,
His left Arm to the south,
Shooting out in anguish deep,
And his Feet stamp'd the nether Abyss.

2. All the myriads of Eternity,
All the wisdom & joy of life;
Roll like a sea around him.



Except what his little orb
Of sight by depths unfold.

Then he look'd back with anxious despair,
But the space undivided by existence
Struck horror into his soul.

3. And now his eternal life
Like a dream was obliterated.

6. Lest wept obscure with mourning;
His bosom earthquak'd with sighs;
He saw Orizen deadly black,
In his chains bound, & cry began.

4. Shuddering, the Eternal Prophet arose
With a stroke, from his north to south
region.

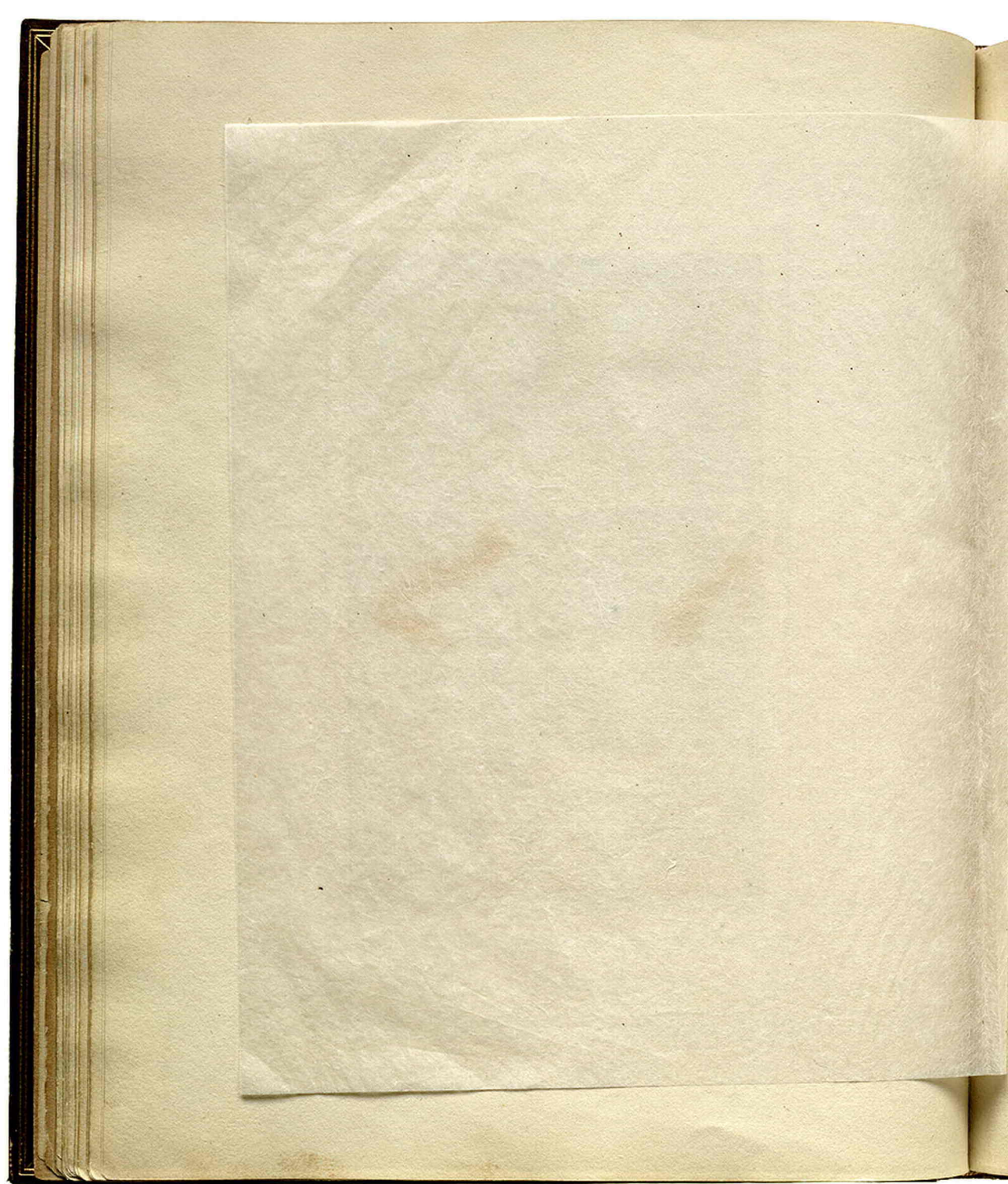
7. In anguish dreading & dashing
For pity divides the soul
In purg'd eternity an eternity
Life in separation pour'd down his
cells.

The bellows & hammer are silent now
A nerveless silence, his prophetic voice
Slept; a cold solitude & dark void
The Eternal Prophet & Orizen close.

8. The void shrank the loom into fibres
Wandering wide on the basin of night
And left a round globe of blood
Trampling upon the Void.

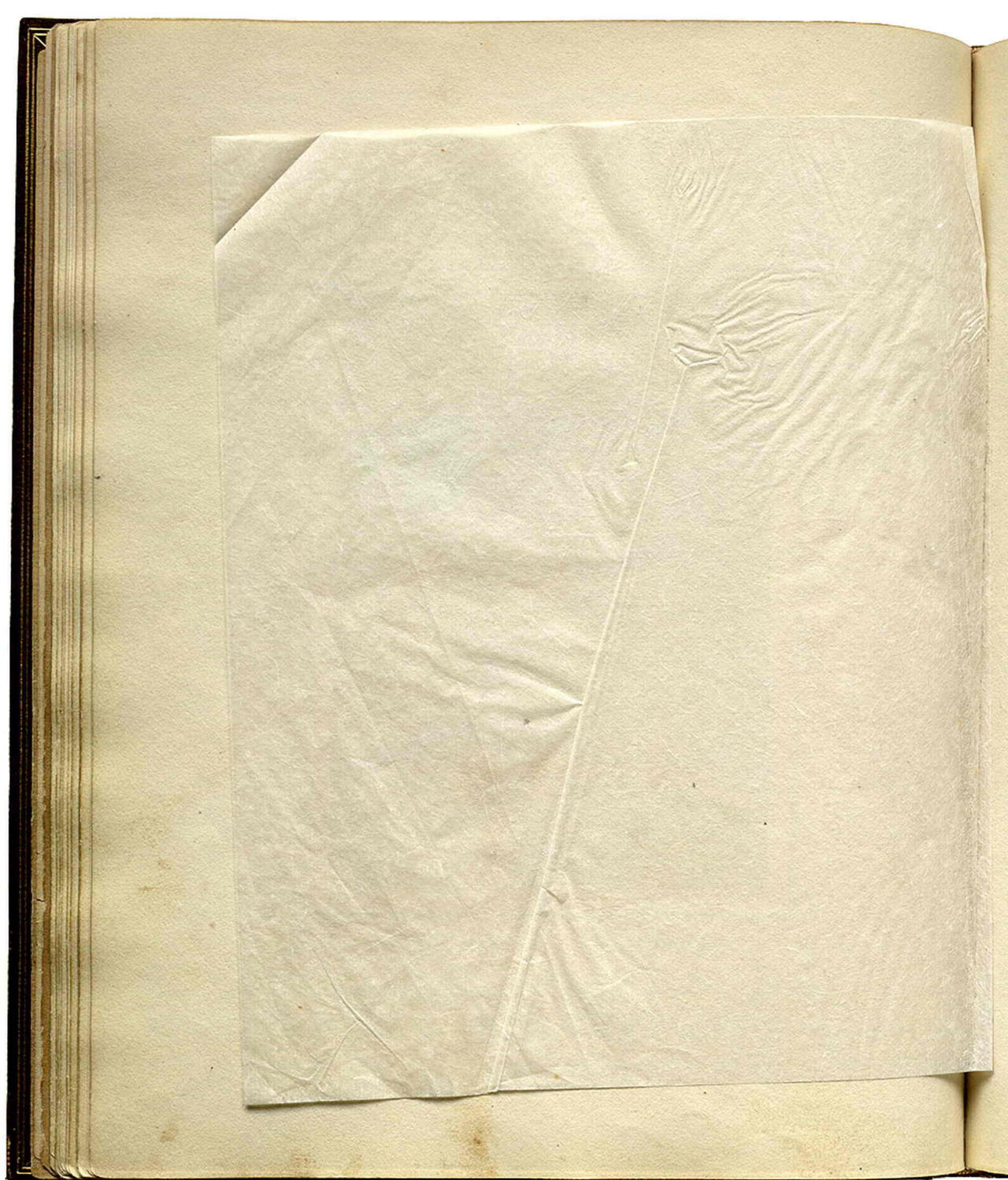
5. Ages on ages roll'd over them
Cut all from life & light frozen
Into horrible forms of deformity
Lest suffer'd his fires to decay.

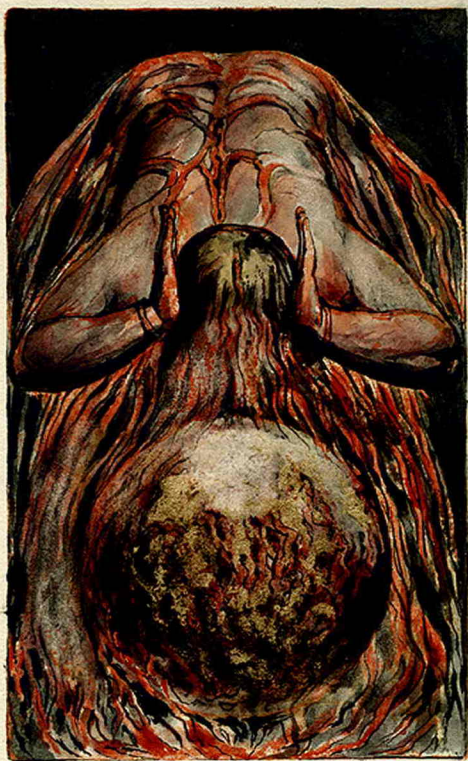
9. The void shrank the loom into fibres
Wandering wide on the basin of night
And left a round globe of blood
Trampling upon the Void.

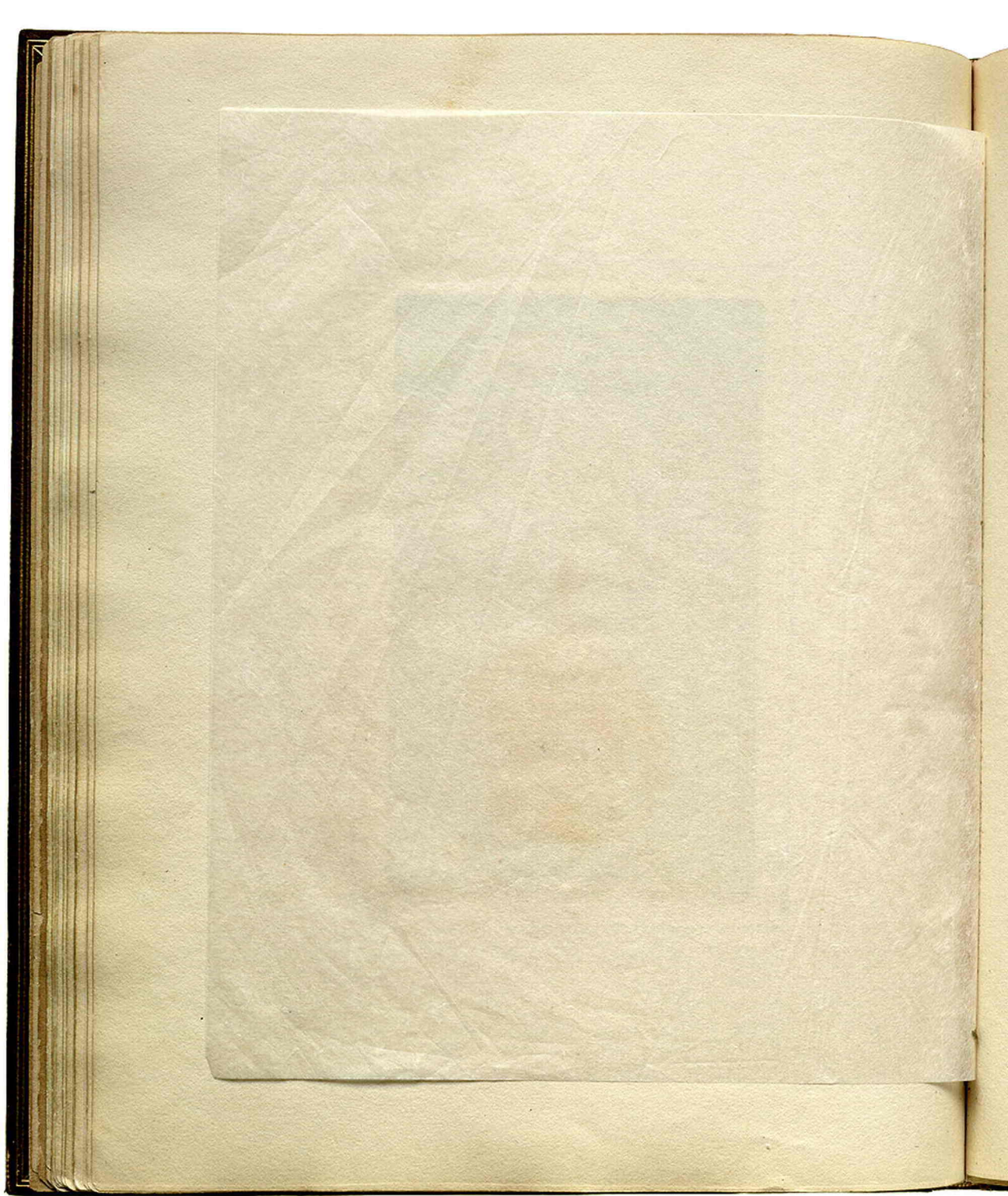


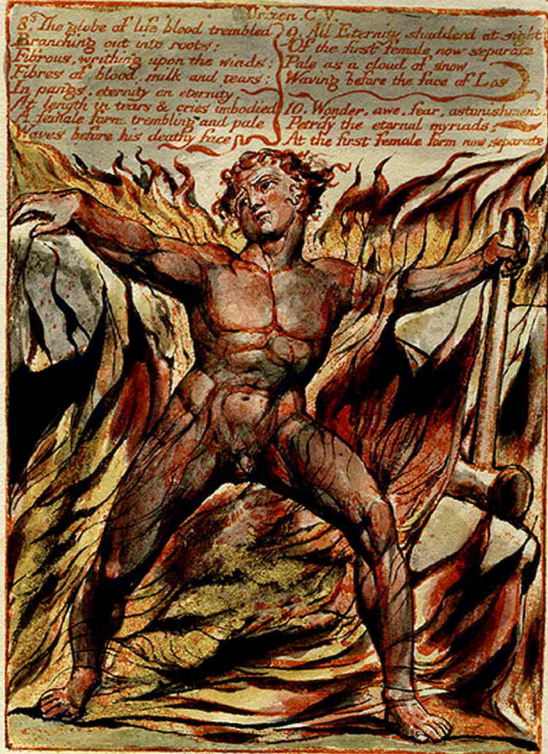
16
 Just the Eternal Prophet was droued
 Before the death tongue of Urgan
 For in changeable clouds and darkness
 In a wintery night beneath yewes
 The Abyss of Loe stretch'd immense
 And now seen now obscur'd to the eyes
 All Eternals the visions renet
 At the dark separation appar'd
 As pillars denser th' ether
 In the endless Abyss of space
 So the expanding eyes of Immortals
 Beheld the dark regions of Loe
 And the globe of life blood wembling















They call'd her Vile, and Red :

11. Spread a Tent with strong curtains
around them :

Let cords & stakes bend 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 intricate labour the Eternals
A web wove, and call'd it Science :

Chap. VI.

1. But Love saw the Female & piteous
He embrac'd her, she wept, she roiv'd
In perverse, and cruel delight :

She fled from his arms, yet he follow'd
2. Eternity shudd'rd, when they saw
Plan begotting his Eternals :

On his own shroud'd 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 tremblous 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
pent :

With dolorous hissing & poisons
Round Enitharmon's loins folding :

6. Coiled within Enitharmon's womb
The serpent grew casting its scales
With sharp pang's the hissing began
To change to a grating cry :

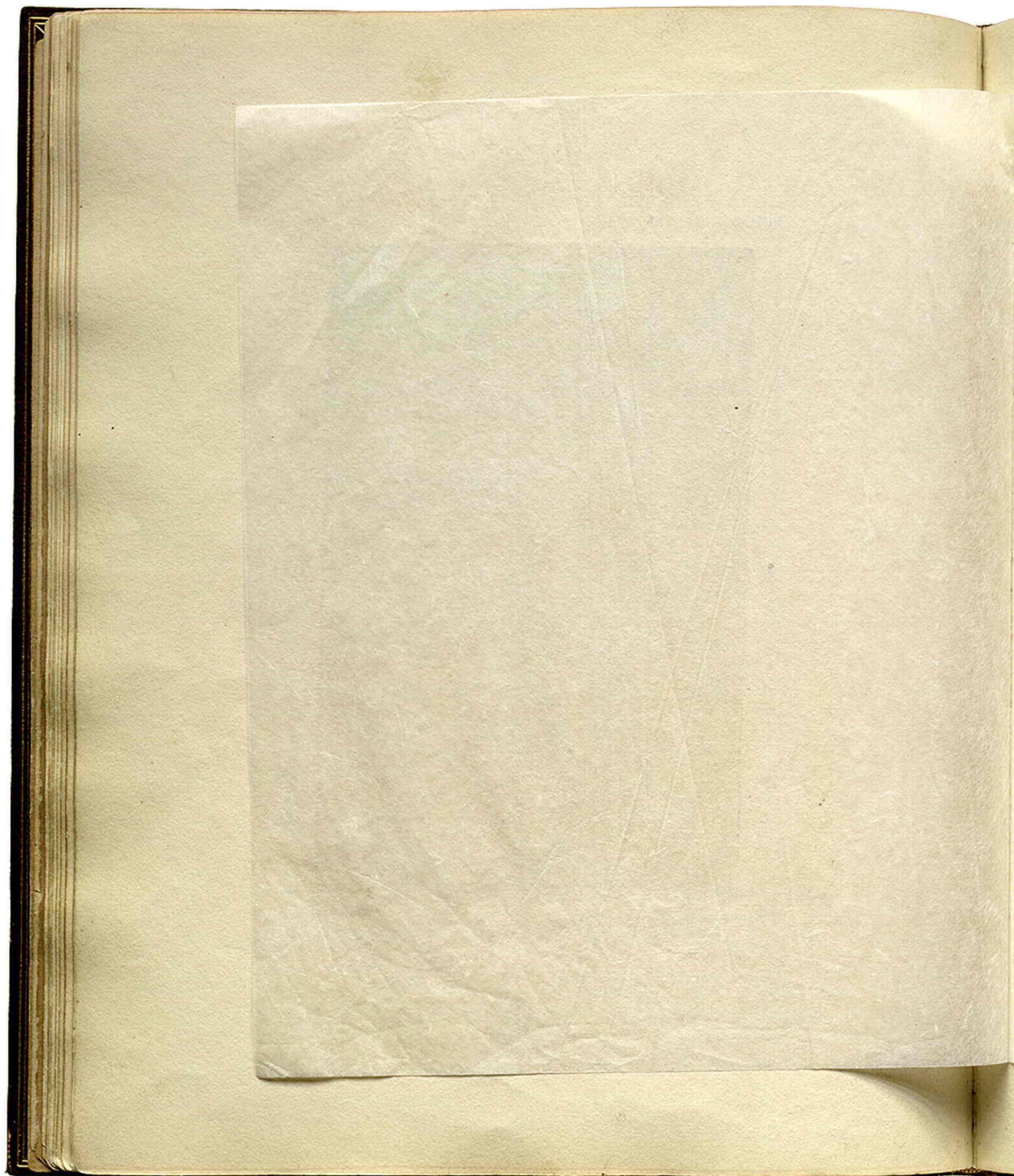
Many sorrows, and dismal throes
Many forges of loss, fire & heat
Brought forth an Infant form
Where was a worm before :

7. The Eternals their tent finish'd
Alarm'd with these gloomy visions
When Enitharmon, breathing
Produced a man Child to the light :

8. A shriek ran thro' Eternity
And a paralysic stroke
At the birth of the Human Shadow :

9. Dabbing earth in his restless
Howling the Child with fierce flames
Issu'd from Enitharmon :

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



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

11. In his hands, he sav'd the infant
He bath'd him in springs of sorrow
He bore him to Enitharmon.

Chap. VII.

1. They nam'd the Child Ore, he grew
Fast with milk of Enitharmon.

2. Los awoke her, O sorrow & pain,
A lightning girdle grew.

Around his bosom, in subbing
He burst the girdle in twain.

One still another gentle deed
Quarrel'd his bosom, in sobbing.

Again he burst it, Again
Another girdle succeeds.

The girdle was form'd by day,
By night was burst in twain.

3. These falling down on the rock
Gave an iron Chain, not
In each other link by link lock'd.

4. They took Ore to the top of a
mountain.

O how Enitharmon wept!
They chain'd his young limbs to the
rock.

With the Chain of Jealousy
Beneath Urizen's deathful Shadow

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 colours of Nature
Explored his dens around.

7. He form'd a line & a plummet
To divide the Abyss's bowgath.
He form'd a dandling 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 fruits.

9. But Los overclouded Enitharmon
With fogs of Prophecy
From the sight of Urizen & Ore.

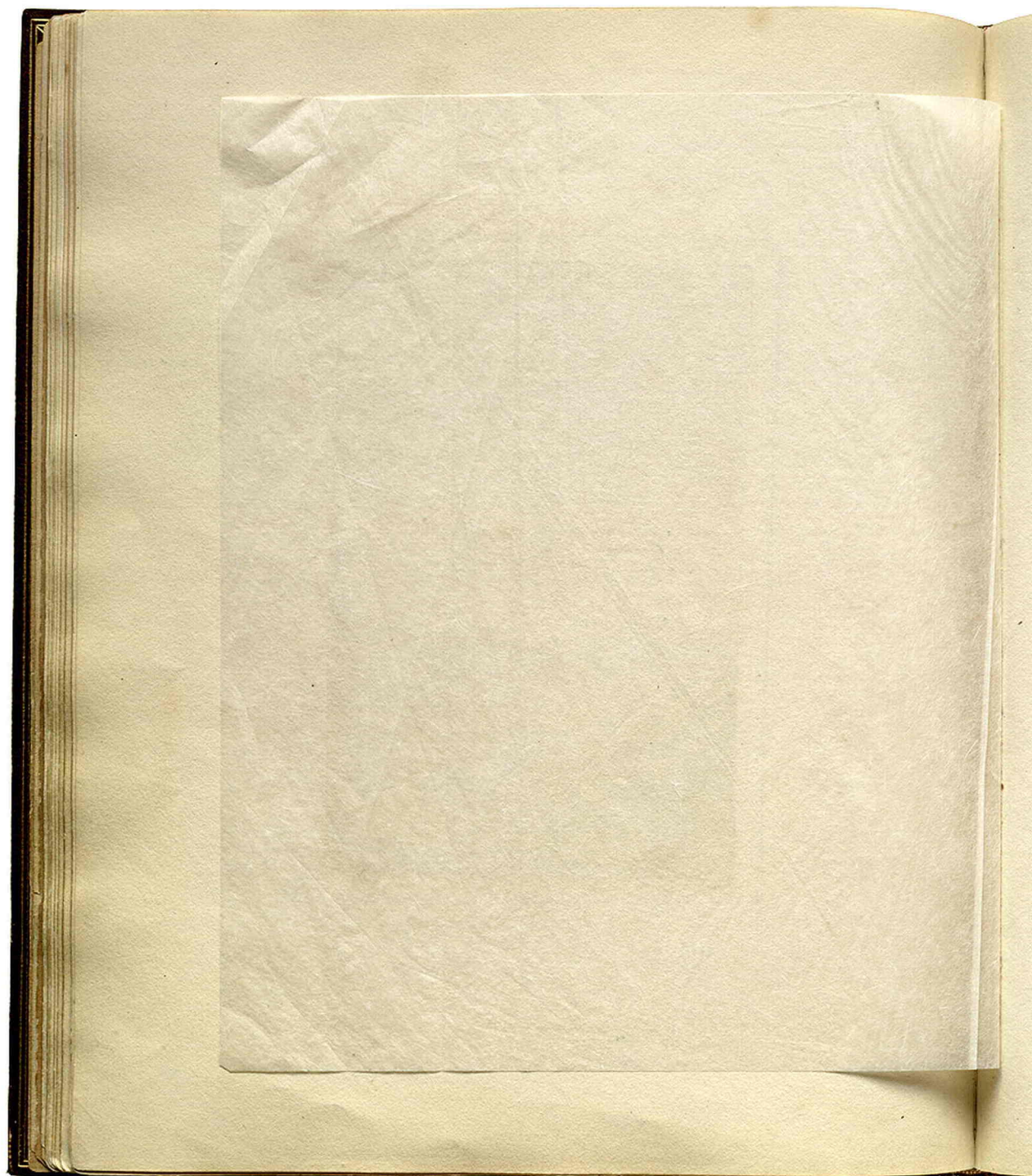
10. And she bore an enormous race

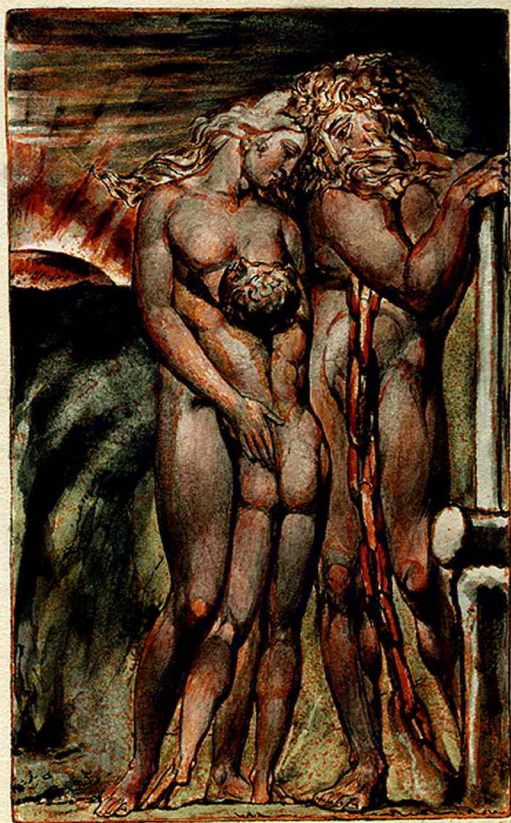
Chap. VIII.

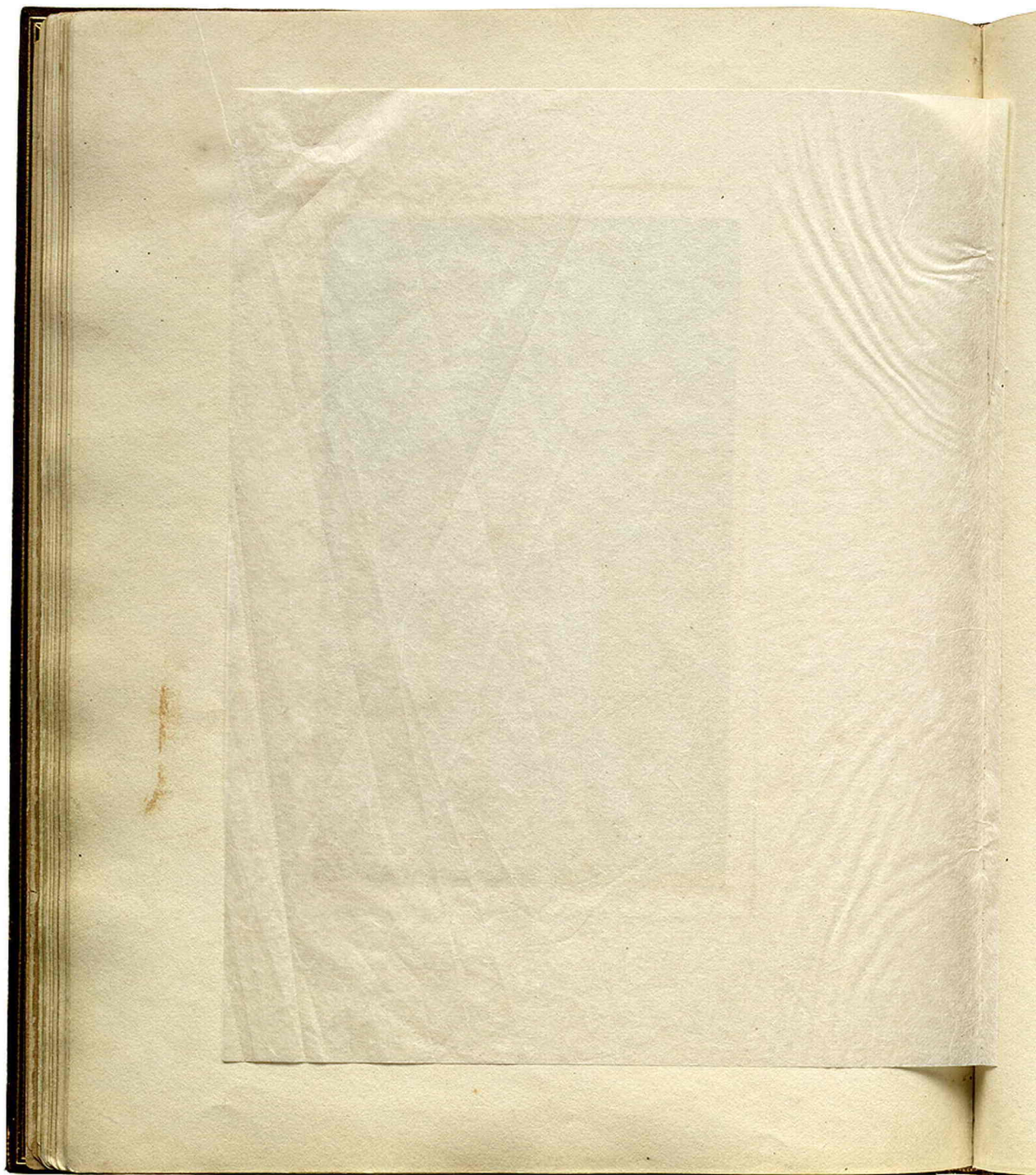
1. Urizen explor'd his dens
Mountain, moor, & wilderness,
With a globe of fire lighting his
A fearful journey, annoy'd
By cruel enormities: Farms

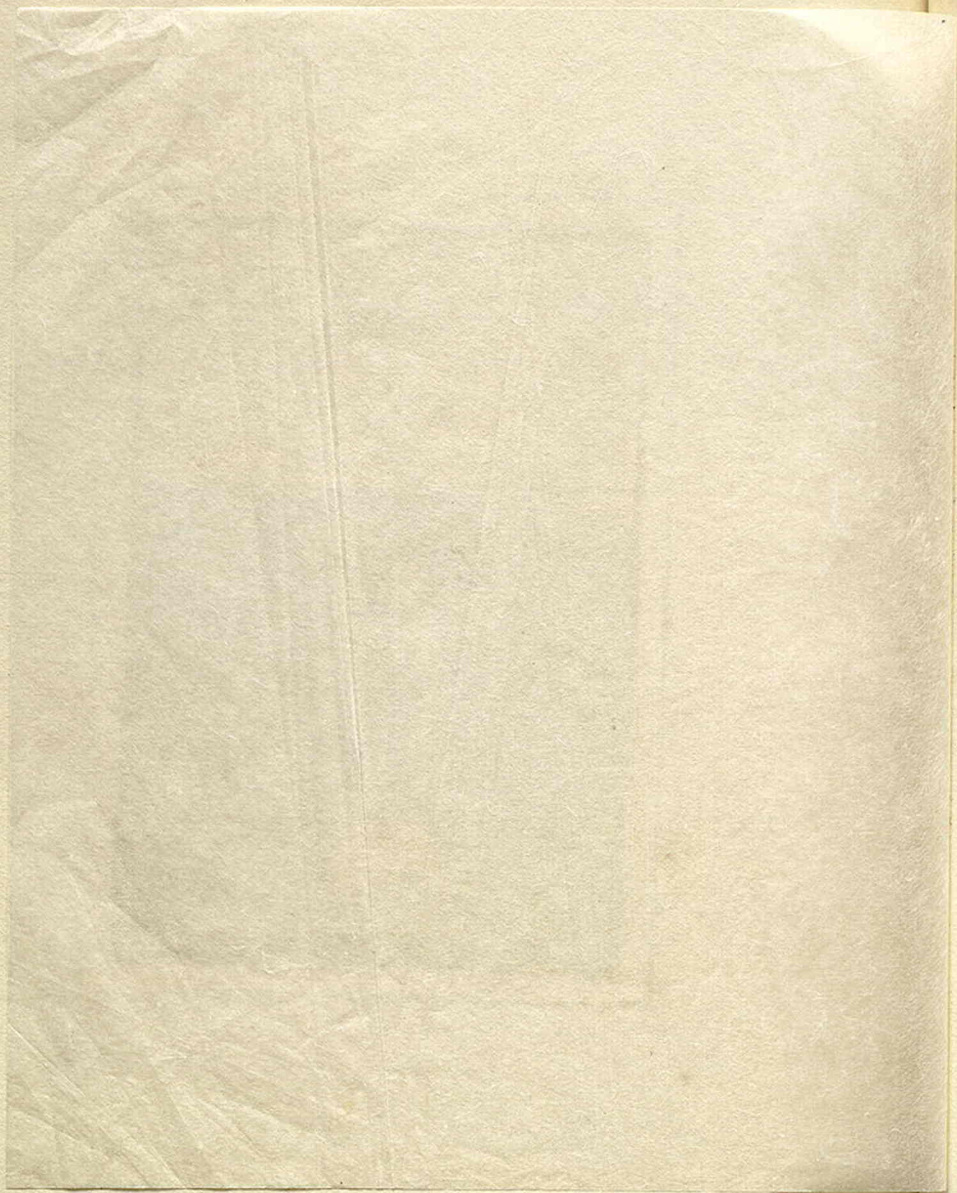
2. A fearful journey, annoy'd
By cruel enormities: Farms



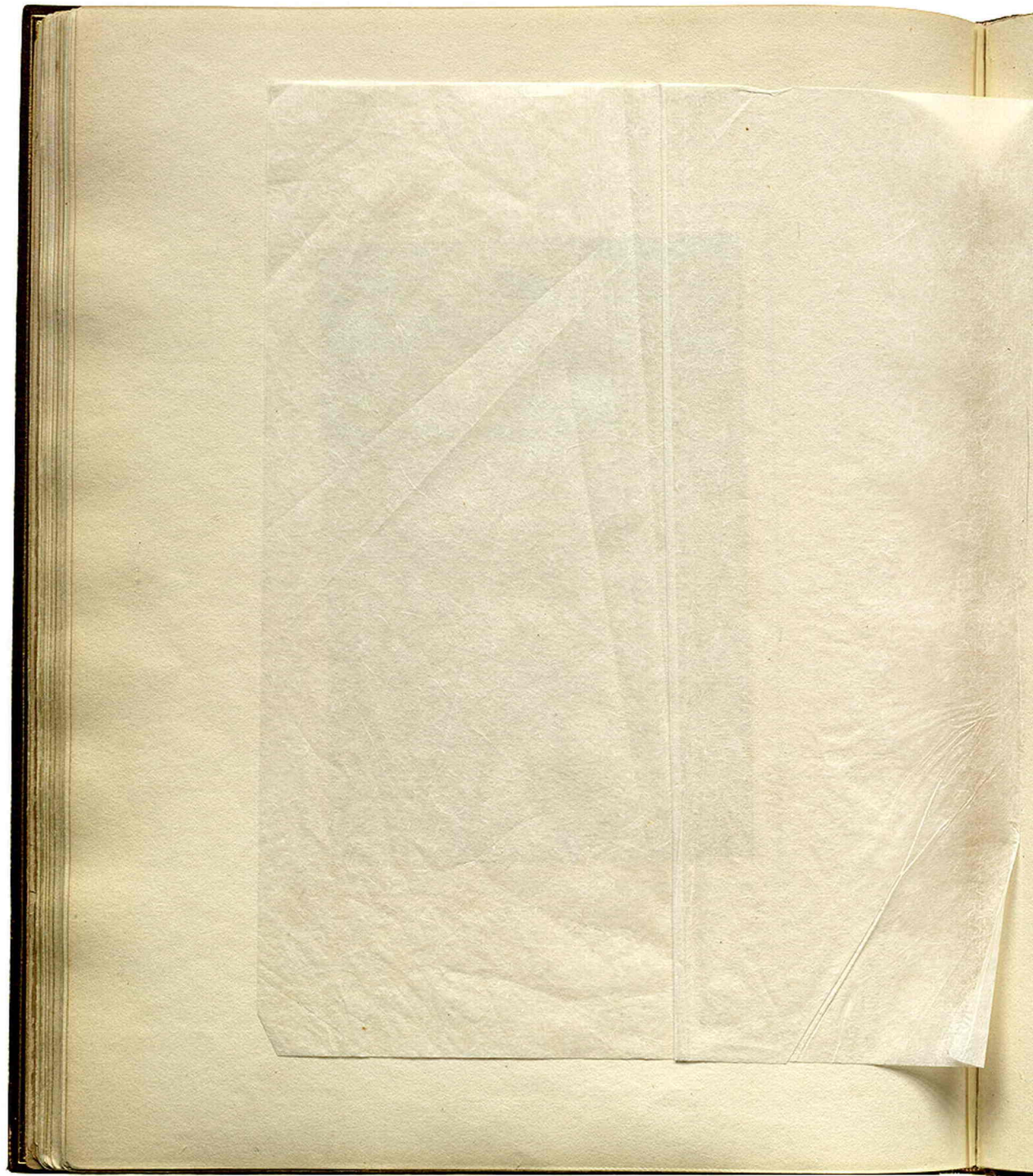




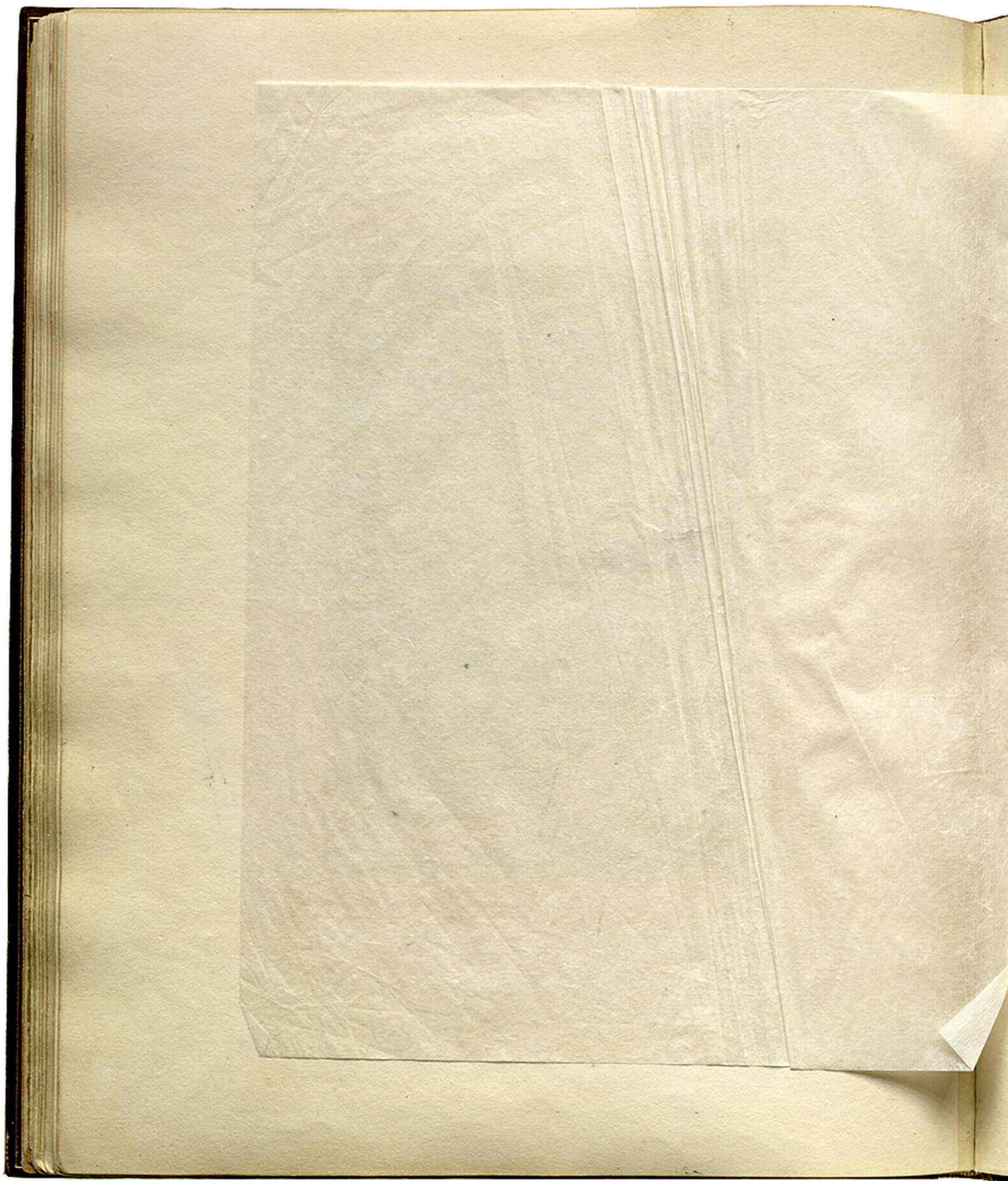














The Ox in the slaughter house moans
The Dog at the windy door
And he roars, & he calls it cry
And his tears, down his face, he weeps

6. Could he wander in high, over
That city
In weeping & pain as we!

And wherever he wanders in sorrows
Upon the aged heavens

1. cold winter follow behind him
The a spider web, most cold & dim
Drawing out from his sorrowing state
The darkness like heaven dividing

Where ever the footsteps of Urizen
Walked 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 Tangle in embryo

None could break the Web, no wings
Of his

8. So twisted the cords, & so loosed
The maces, twisted like to the
human brain

9. And all could it, the Net of Red
In the infinite, vast, but bound down
In their narrowing perceptions

Chap: IX

1. Then the inhabitants of these Cities
Felt their Nerves change into Marrow
And suppurating Bores began

2. In spirit, dispires, and torment
In the struggle to destroy & grind
Thro all the conste, till weakness
The Senses inward rush'd shrieking

3. Beneath the dark net of infection
2. Till the shrunken eyes clouded over
Perceiv'd not the worn hypocrisy
But the strongly alone in their lives
Brought together by narrowing perceptions
Appear'd transparent air: for their eyes
Crew small like the eyes of a man
And in reptile forms sinking together
Of seven feet stature they remained

3. Six days they shrunk up from existence
And on the seventh day they rested
And they, blest the seventh day, in sick
hope

4. And their thirty cities divided
In form of a human heart
No more could they rise as will
In the infinite, vast, but bound down
In their narrowing perceptions

5. And their thirty cities divided
In form of a human heart
No more could they rise as will
In the infinite, vast, but bound down
In their narrowing perceptions

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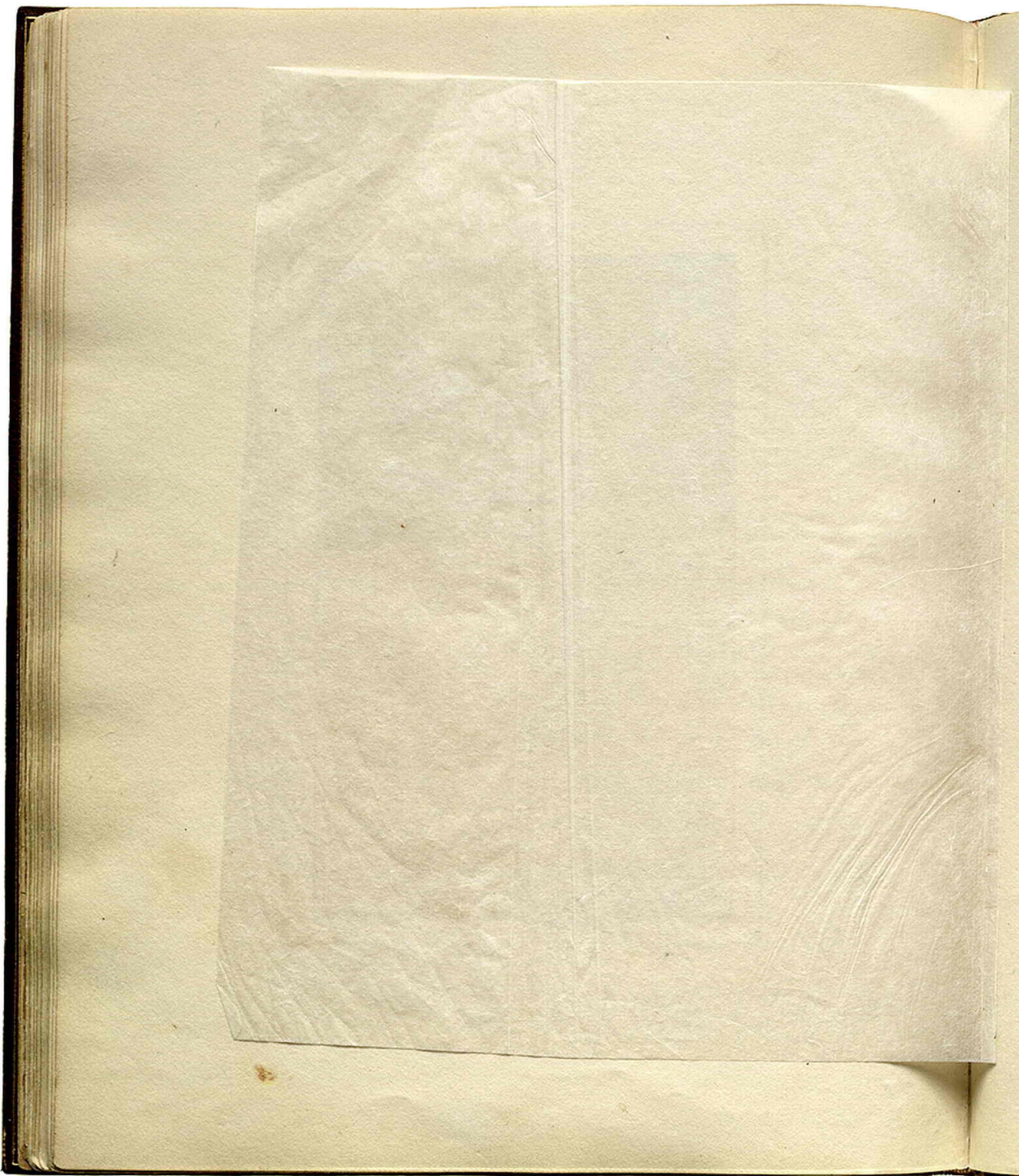
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17. And their thirty cities divided
In form of a human heart
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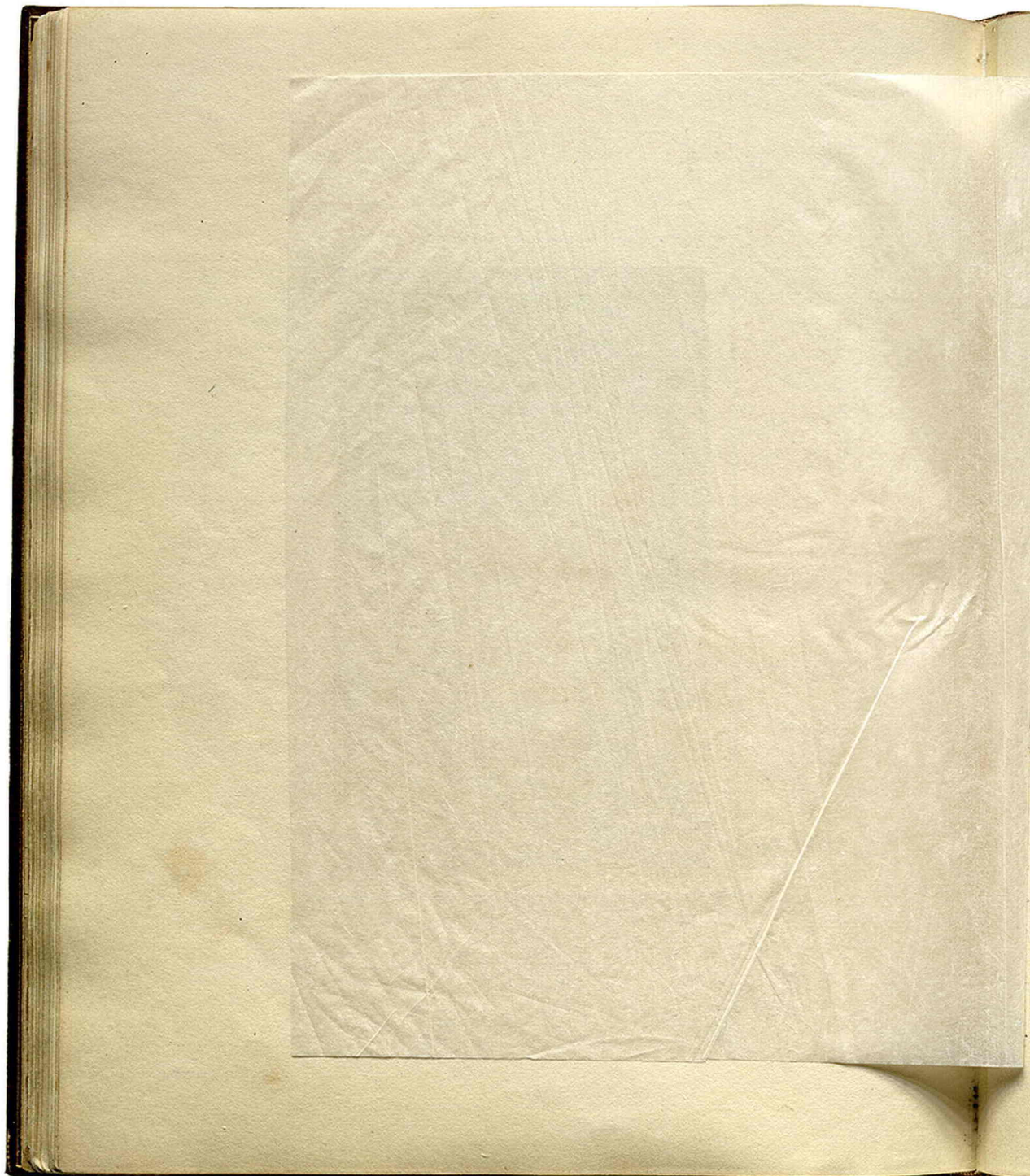
18. And their thirty cities divided
In form of a human heart
No more could they rise as will
In the infinite, vast, but bound down
In their narrowing perceptions

19. And their thirty cities divided
In form of a human heart
No more could they rise as will
In the infinite, vast, but bound down
In their narrowing perceptions

20. And their thirty cities divided
In form of a human heart
No more could they rise as will
In the infinite, vast, but bound down
In their narrowing perceptions







Urizen Calls

They lived a period of years
Then left a noisome body
To the jaws of devouring darkness

5. And their children wept, & built
Tombes in the desolate places.
And firml laws of prudence, and
call'd them the eternal laws of God

6. And the thirty cities remaind
Surrounded by salt floods, now call'd
Africa; its name was then Egypt.

7. The remaining sons of Urizen
Beheld their brethren shrank together
Beneath the Net of Urizen:
Persuasion was in vain.

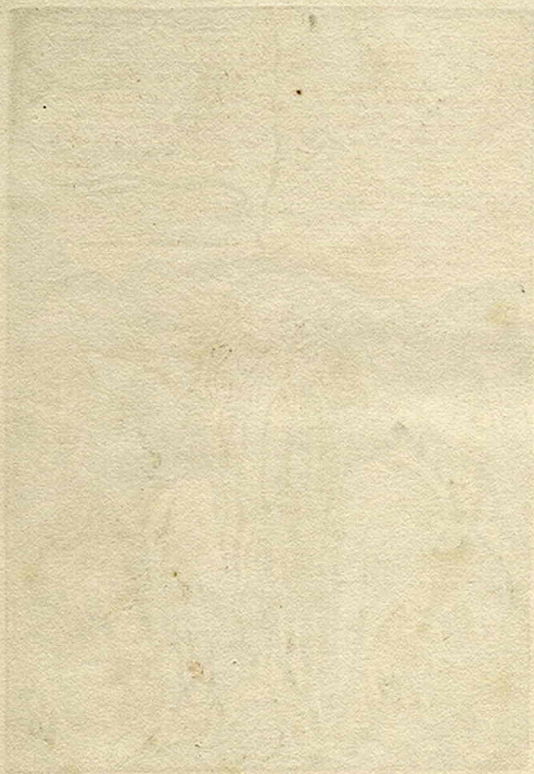
For the sons of the inhabitants,
Were wither'd, & despond, & cold;
And their eyes could not discern
Their brethren of other cities.

8. So Urizen call'd all together
The remaining children of Urizen;
And they left the pendulous girth
They call'd it Egypt, so late it.

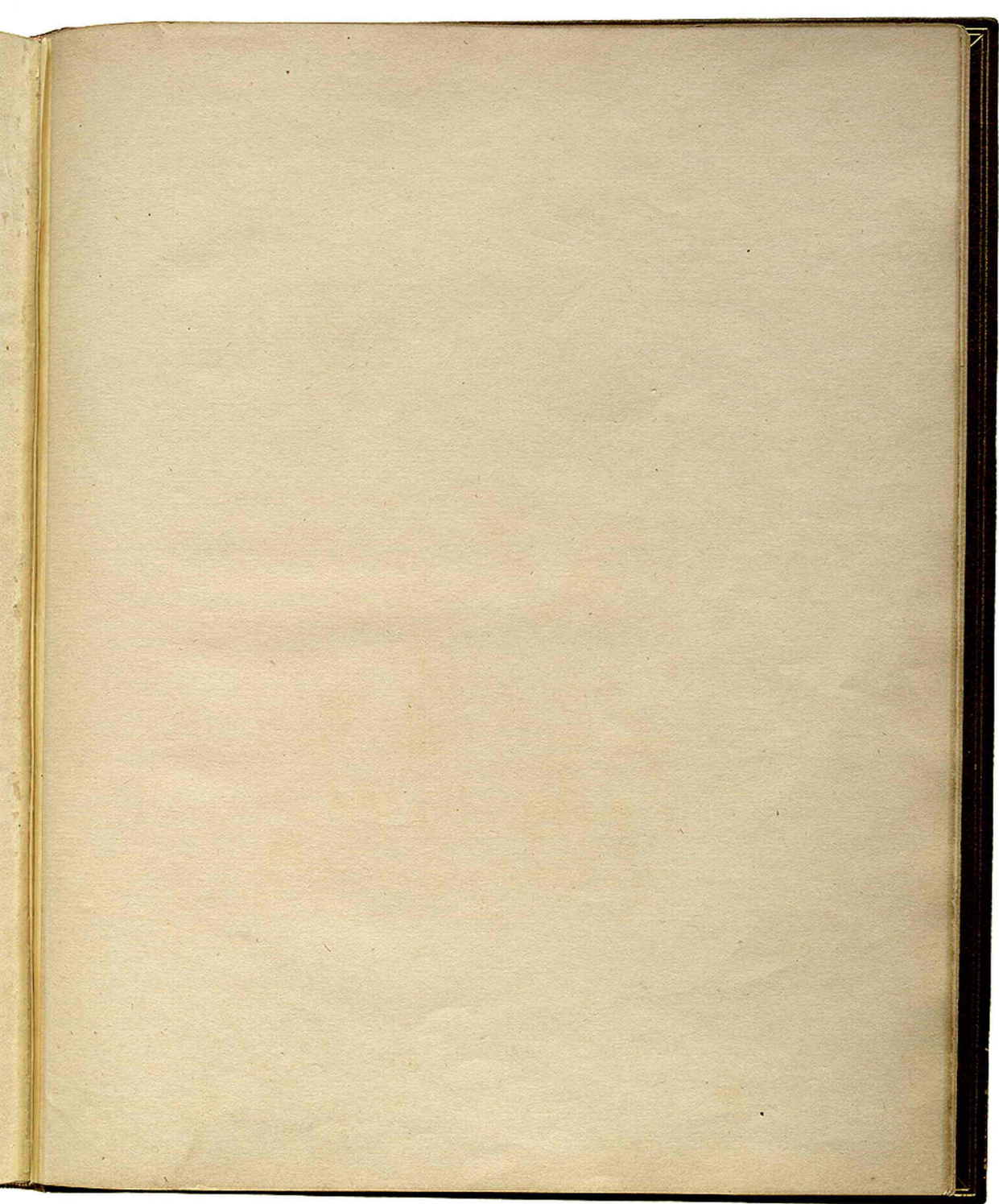
9. And the salt ocean rolled exulting

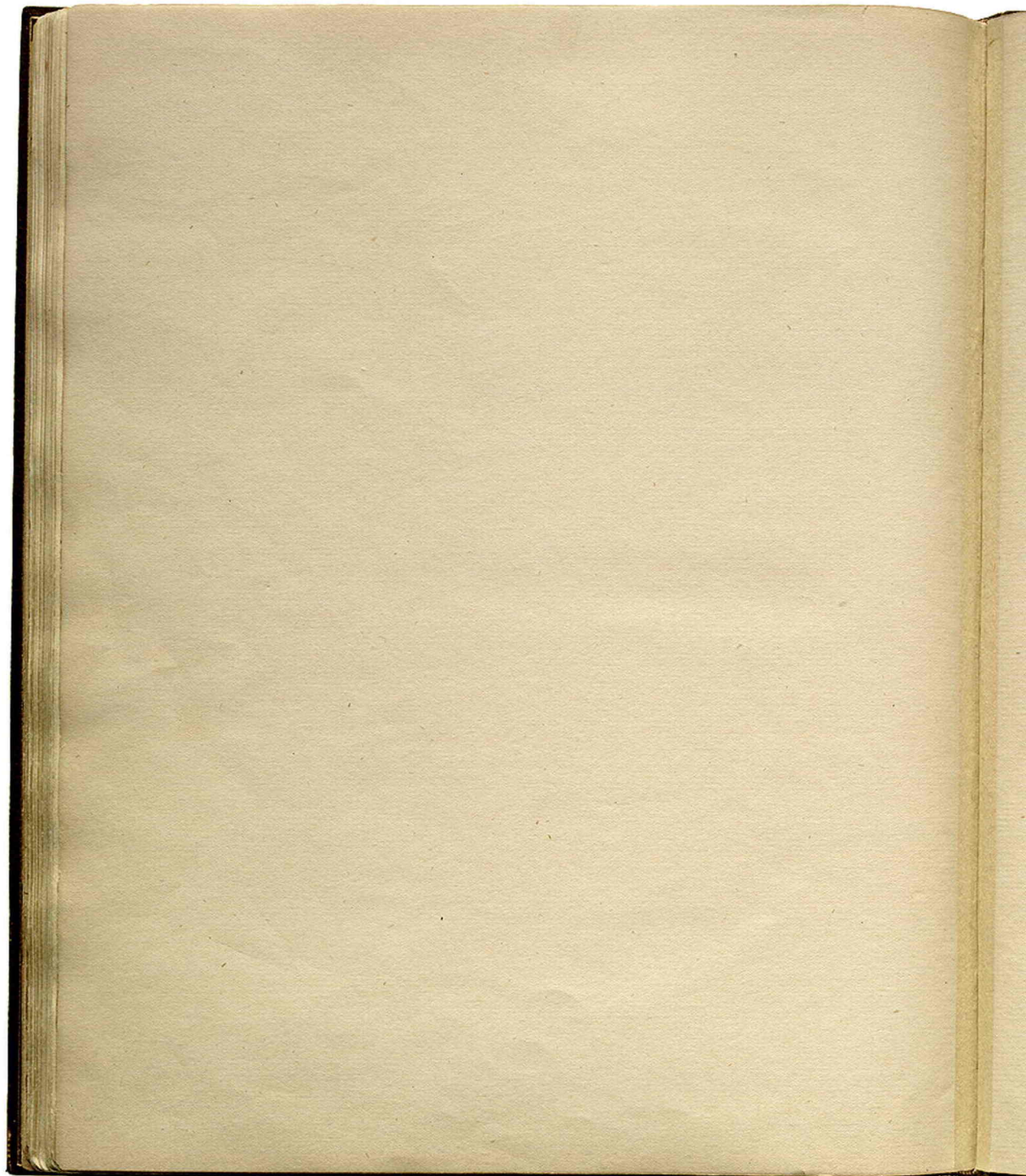
The End of the
book of Urizen





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