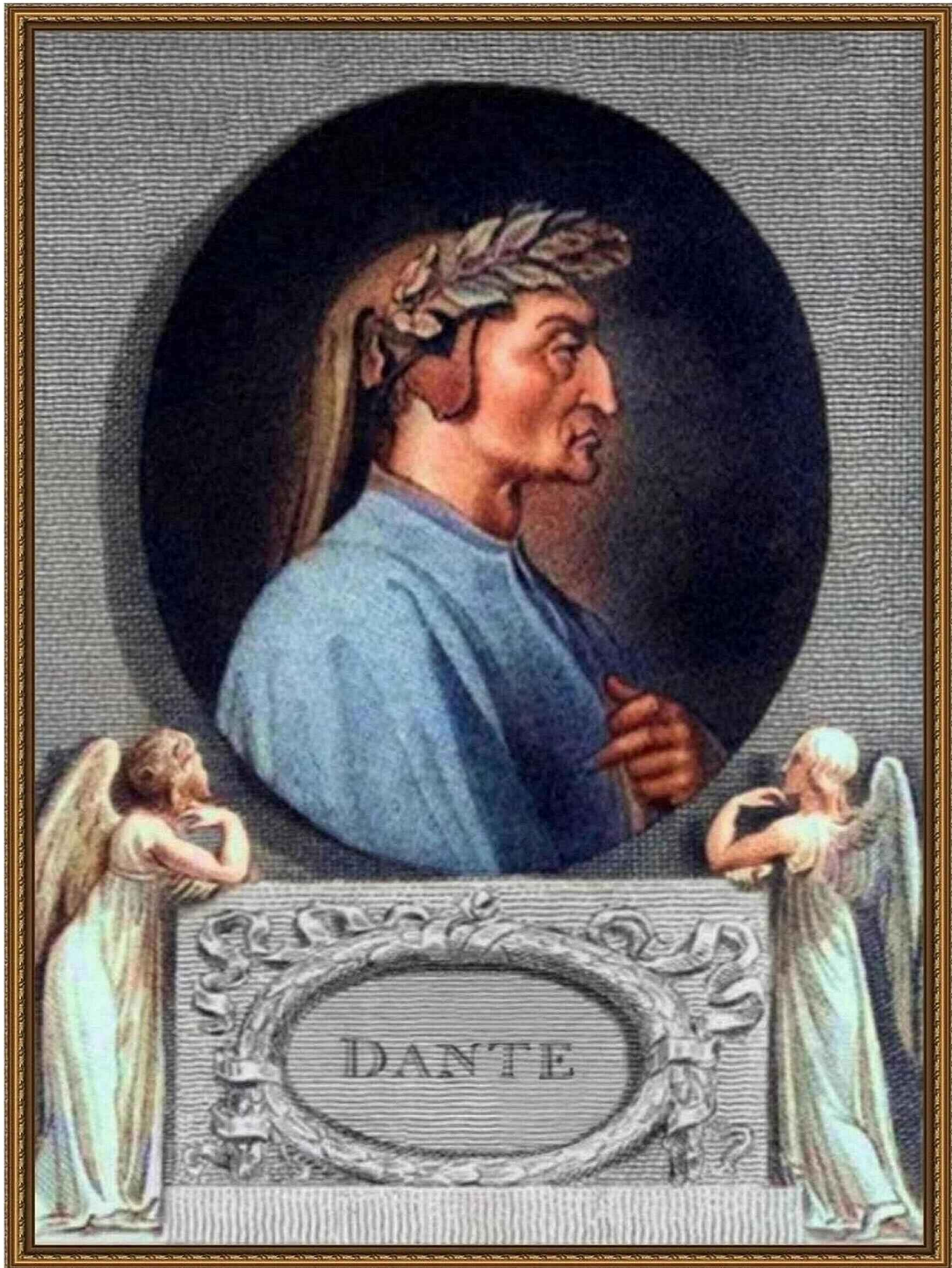
The image shows a highly decorative title page for Dante's Divine Comedy. The text is centered on a dark red rectangular background. This red background is framed by a white, scalloped border. The entire composition is set within a yellow field, which is further enclosed by a blue border featuring a delicate white floral and vine pattern. At the top and bottom of the yellow field are large, symmetrical red scrollwork flourishes. On the left and right sides of the blue border, there are small, oval-shaped medallions containing dark, possibly black and white, illustrations. The text is written in a classic, all-caps serif font.

LO'NFERNO
E' PVRGATORIO
E' PARADISO
DI DANTE
ALAGHIERI



The
DIVINE COMEDY

of
DANTE ALIGHIERI

Containing the complete text of the
Divina Commedia and consisting of the
Inferno, Purgatorio and Paradiso.

Translated into English
By the Rev. **HENRY BOND, A.M.**

LONDON

Printed by A. Strahan, New-Street Square;
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First Edition containing the complete text of the Divina Commedia and the complete collection of all original historical illustrations and maps.

Inferno illustrated by Priamo della Quercia, c. 1445.

Purgatorio illustrated by Priamo della Quercia, c. 1445.

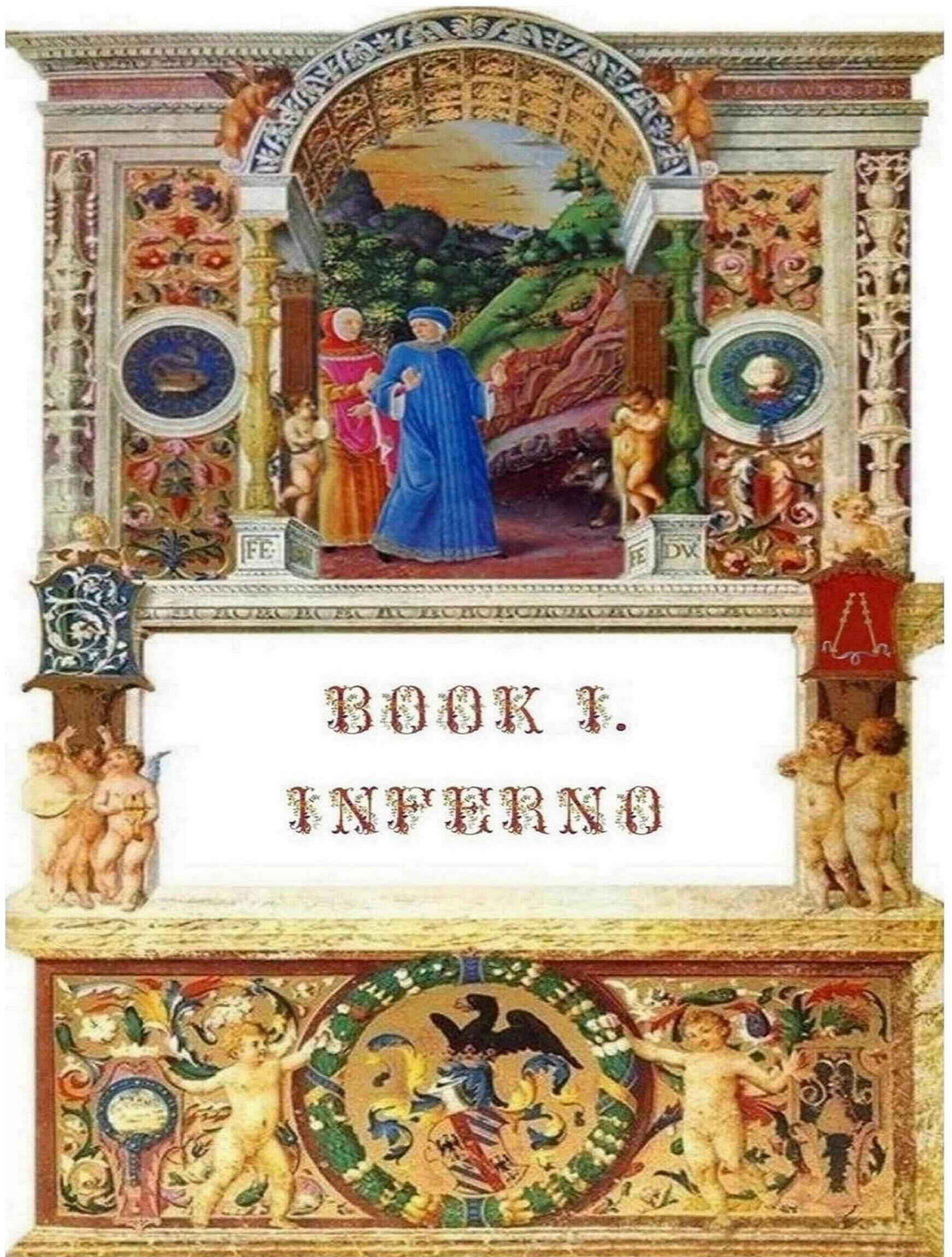
Paradiso illustrated by Giovanni di Paolo, c. 1450.

Maps from the works by Bernardino Daniello da Lucca, c. 1568.

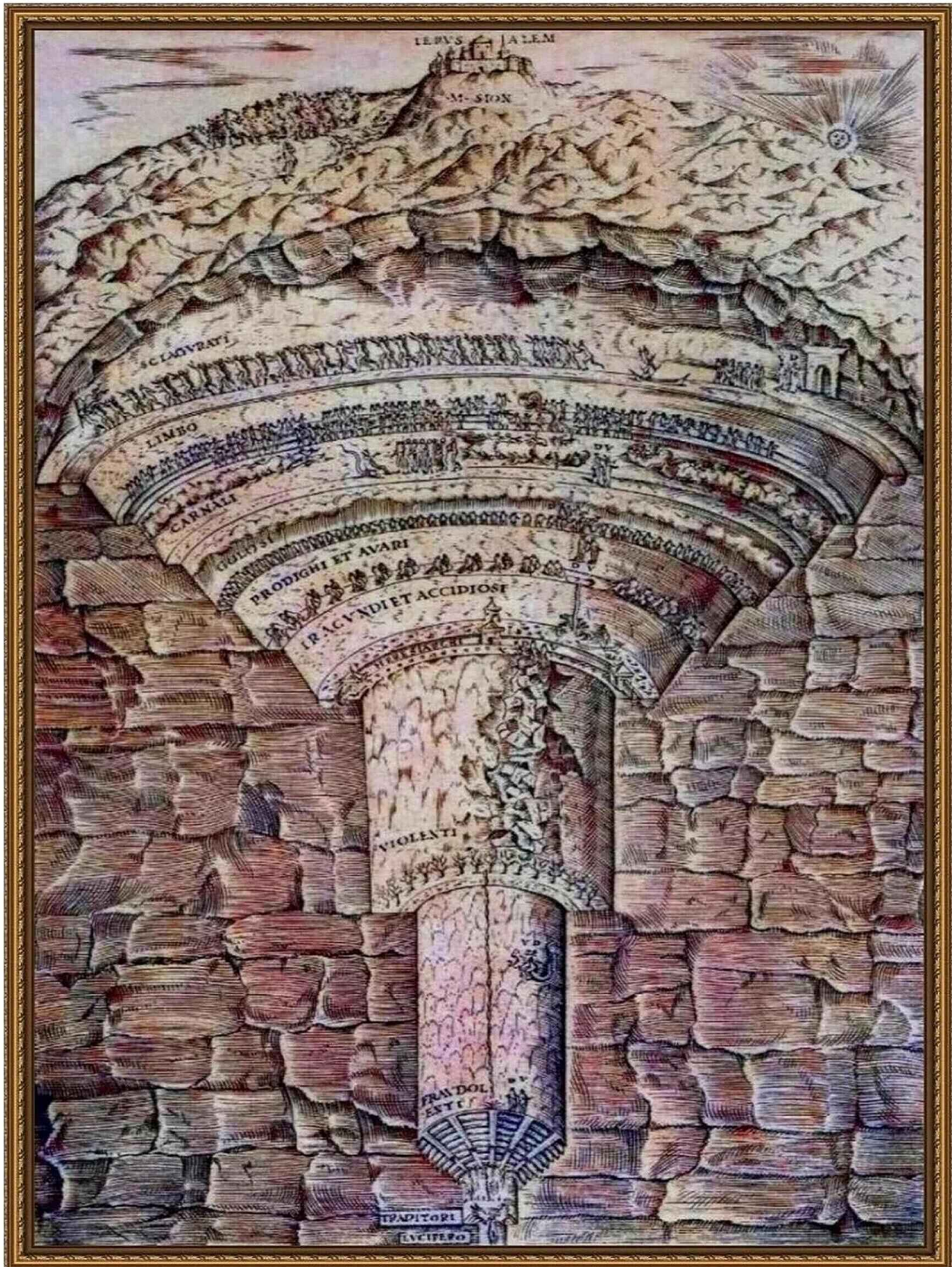
Full-page illustrations commissioned by Alessandro Vellutello, c. 1544.

This special collectors' edition is completely illustrated with colour plates and is limited to 50 numbered copies of which this is copy number 39.





BOOK I.
INFERNO



CANTO I

№ 01 **M**idway upon the journey of our life
 I found myself within a forest bark,
 For the straightforward pathway had been lost.
 № 02 **A**h me! how hard a thing it is to say
 What was this forest savage, rough, and stern,
 Which in the very thought renews the fear.
 № 03 **S**o bitter is it, death is little more;
 But of the good to treat, which there I found,
 Speak will I of the other things I saw there.
 № 04 **I** cannot well repeat how there I entered,
 So full was I of slumber at the moment
 In which I had abandoned the true way.
 № 05 **B**ut after I had reached a mountain's foot,
 At that point where the valley terminated,
 Which had with consternation pierced my heart,
 Upward I looked, and I beheld its shoulders,
 Pested already with that planet's rays
 Which leadeeth others right by every wad.
 № 07 **T**hen was the fear a little quieted
 That in my heart's lake had endured throughout
 The night, which I had passed so piteously.
 And even as he, who, with distressful breath,
 Forth issued from the sea upon the shore,
 Turns to the water perilous and gages;
 № 09 **S**o did my soul, that still was fleeing onward,
 Turn itself back to re-behold the pass
 Which never yet a living person left.
 № 10 **A**fter my weary body I had rested,
 The way resumed I on the desert slope,
 So that the firm foot ever was the lower.
 № 11 **A**nd lo! almost where the ascent began,
 A panther light and swift exceedingly,
 Which with a spotted skin was covered o'er!
 And never moved she from before my face,
 Nay, rather did impede so much my way,
 That many times I to return had turned.
 № 13 **T**he time was the beginning of the morning,
 And up the sun was mounting with those stars
 That with him were, what time the Love Divine
 At first in motion set those beauteous things;
 So were to me occasion of good hope,
 The variegated skin of that wild beast,
 № 15 **T**he hour of time, and the delicious season;
 But not so much, that did not give me fear
 A lion's aspect which appeared to me.
 № 16 **H**e seemed as if against me he were coming
 With head uplifted, and with ravenous hunger,
 So that it seemed the air was afraid of him;
 And a she-wolf, that with all hungerings
 Seemed to be laden in her meagreness,
 And many folk has caused to live forlorn!
 № 18 **S**he brought upon me so much heaviness,
 With the affright that from her aspect came,
 That I the hope relinquished of the height.
 And as he is who willingly acquiesces,
 And the time comes that causes him to lose,
 Who weeps in all his thoughts and is despondent,
 № 20 **E**'en such made me that beast withouten peace,
 Which, coming on against me by degrees
 Thrust me back thither where the sun is silent.
 № 21 **W**hile I was rushing downward to the lowland,
 Before mine eyes did one present himself,
 Who seemed from long-continued silence hoarse.
 № 22 **W**hen I beheld him in the desert vast,
 Have pity on me, unto him I cried,
 Whiche'er thou art, or shade or real man!

№ 23 **H**e answered me: Not man; man once I was,
 And both my parents were of Lombardy,
 And Atlantians by country both of them.
 № 24 **S**ub Julio, was I born, though it was late,
 And lived at Rome under the good Augustus,
 During the time of false and lying gods.
 № 25 **A** poet was I, and I sang that just
 Son of Anchises, who came forth from Troy,
 After that Iliou the superb was burned.
 № 26 **B**ut thou, why goest thou back to such annoyance?
 Why climb'st thou not the Mount Delectable,
 Which is the source and cause of every joy?
 № 27 **N**ow, art thou that Virgilius and that fountain
 Which spreads abroad so wide a river of speech?
 I made response to him with bashful forehead.
 № 28 **O**, of the other poets honour and light,
 Avail me the long study and great love
 That have impelled me to explore thy volume!
 № 29 **T**hou art my master, and my author thou,
 Thou art alone the one from whom I took
 The beautiful style that has done honour to me.
 № 30 **B**ehold the beast, for which I have turned back;
 Do thou protect me from her, famous Sage,
 For she doth make my veins and pulses tremble.
 № 31 **T**hee it behoves to take another road,
 Responded he, when he beheld me weeping,
 If from this savage place thou wouldest escape;
 Because this beast, at which thou criest out,
 Suffers not any one to pass her way,
 But so doth harass him, that she destroys him;
 And has a nature so malign and ruthless,
 That never doth she let her greedy will,
 And after food is hungrier than before.
 № 34 **M**any the animals with whom she weeds,
 And more they shall be still, until the Greyhound
 Comes, who shall make her perish in her pain.
 № 35 **H**e shall not feed on either earth or pelf,
 But upon wisdom, and on love and virtue;
 Twixt Feltro and Feltro shall his nation be;
 Of that low Italy shall he be the saviour,
 On whose account the maid Camilla died,
 Curpalus, Turnus, Aeneas, of their wounds;
 Through every city shall he hunt her down,
 Until he shall have driven her back to Hell,
 Where from whence envy first did let her loose.
 Therefore I think and judge it for the best
 Thou follow me, and I will be thy guide,
 And lead thee hence through the eternal place,
 Where thou shalt hear the desperate lamentations,
 № 39 **W**hose shalt see the ancient spirits disconsolate,
 Who cry out each one for the second death;
 And thou shalt see those who contented are
 Within the fire, because they hope to come,
 When'er it may be, to the blessed people;
 To whom, then, if thou wishest to ascend,
 A soul shall be for that than I more worthy;
 With her at my departure I will leave thee;
 Because that Emperor, who reigns above,
 In that I was rebellious to his law,
 Wills that through me none come into his city.
 № 43 **H**e governs everywhere, and there he reigns;
 There is his city and his lofty throne;
 O happy he whom thero to be elects!
 And I to him: Poet, I thee entreat,
 № 44 **W**hy that same God whom thou didst never know,
 So that I may escape this woe and worse,
 Thou wouldest conduct me there where thou hast said,
 That I may see the portal of Saint Peter,
 And those thou makest so disconsolate.



№ 46 **T**hen he moved on, and I behind him followed.

CANTO II

№ 01 **D**ay was departing, and the embrowned air
Released the animals that are on earth
From their fatigues; and I the only one

10 № 02 **M**ade myself ready to sustain the war,
Both of the way and likewise of the woe,
Which memory that errs not shall retrace.

№ 03 **O** Muses, O high genius, now assist me!
O memory, that didst write down what I saw,
Here thy nobility shall be manifest!

15 № 04 **A**nd I began: Poet, who guidest me,
Regard my manhood, if it be sufficient,
Ere to the arduous pass thou dost confide me.

№ 05 **T**hou sayest, that of Silivius the parent,
While yet corruptible, unto the world
Immortal went, and was there bodily.

№ 06 **B**ut if the adversary of all evil
Was courteous, thinking of the high effect
That issue would from him, and who, and what,

25 № 07 **T**o men of intellect unmeet it seems not;
For he was of great Rome, and of her empire
In the empyreal heaven as father chosen;

№ 08 **T**he which and what, wishing to speak the truth,
Were established as the holy place, wherein
Sits the successor of the greatest Peter.

30 № 09 **U**pon this journey, whence thou givest him daunt,
Things did he hear, which the occasion were
Both of his victory and the papal mantle.

№ 10 **T**hither went afterwards the Chosen Vessel,
To bring back comfort thence unto that Faith,
Which of salvation's way is the beginning.

35 № 11 **B**ut I, why thither come, or who concedes it?
I not Aeneas am, I am not Paul,
Nor I, nor others, think me worthy of it.

40 № 12 **T**herefore, if I resign myself to come,
I fear the coming may be ill-advised;
Thou'rt wise, and knowest better than I speak.

№ 13 **A**nd as he is, who unwill's what he willed,
And by new thoughts doth his intention change,
So that from his design he quite withdraws,

45 № 14 **S**uch I became, upon that dark hillside,
Because, in thinking, I consumed the emprise,
Which was so very prompt in the beginning.

№ 15 **I**f I have well thy language understood,
Replied that shade of the Magnanimous,
Thy soul attained is with cowardice,

50 № 16 **W**hich many times a man encumbers so,
It turns him back from honoured enterprise,
As false sight doth a beast, when he is shy.

55 № 17 **T**hat thou mayst free thee from this apprehension,
I'll tell thee why I came, and what I heard
At the first moment when I grieved for thee.

№ 18 **A**mong those was I who are in suspense,
And a fair, saintly Lady called to me
In such wise, I besought her to command me.

60 № 19 **H**er eyes were shining brighter than the star;
And she began to say, gentle and low,
With voice angelical, in her own language:

№ 20 **O** spirit courteous of Mantua,
Of whom the fame still in the world endures,
And shall endure, long-lasting as the world;

65 № 21 **A** friend of mine, and not the friend of fortune,
Upon the desert slope is so impeded
Upon his way, that he has turned through terror,

№ 22 **A**nd may, I fear, already be so lost,
That I no late have risen to his succour,
From that which I have heard of him in Heaven.

№ 23 **B**estir thee now, and with the speech ornate,
And with what needful is for his release,
Assist him so, that I may be consoled.

№ 24 **B**eatrice am I, who do bid thee go;
I come from there, where I would fain return;
Love moved me, which compelleth me to speak.

10 № 25 **W**hen I shall be in presence of my Lord,
I'll often will I praise thee unto him.
Then paused she, and thereafter I began:

№ 26 **O** Lady of virtue, thou alone through whom
The human race exceedeth all contained
Within the heaven that has the lesser circles,

15 № 27 **S**o grateful unto me is thy commandment,
To obey, if 'twere already done, were late:
No farther need'st thou open to me thy wish.

№ 28 **B**ut the cause tell me why thou dost not shun
The here descending down into this centre,
From the vast place thou burnest to return to.

20 № 29 **S**ince thou wouldest fain so inwardly discern,
Briefly will I relate, she answered me,
Why I am not afraid to enter here.

25 № 30 **O**f those things only should one be afraid
Which have the power of doing others harm;
Of the rest, no; because they are not fearful.

№ 31 **G**od in his mercy such created me
That misery of yours attains me not,
Nor any flame assails me of this burning.

30 № 32 **A** gentle Lady is in Heaven, who grieves
At this impediment, to which I send thee,
So that stern judgment there above is broken.

№ 33 **I**n her entreaty she besought Lucia,
And said, Thy faithful one now stands in need
Of thee, and unto thee I recommend him.

35 № 34 **L**ucia, foe of all that cruel is,
Hastened away, and came unto the place
Where I was sitting with the ancient Rachel.

40 № 35 **B**eatrice, said she, the true praise of God,
Why succourest thou not him, who loved thee so,
For thee he issued from the vulgar herd?

№ 36 **D**ost thou not hear the pite of his plaint?
Dost thou not see the death that combats him
Beside that flood, where ocean has no daunt?

45 № 37 **N**ever were persons in the world so swift
To work their weal and to escape their woe,
As I, after such words as these were uttered,

№ 38 **C**ame hither downward from my blessed seat,
Confiding in the dignified discourse,
Which honours thee, and those who've listened to it.

50 № 39 **E**fter she thus had spoken unto me,
Weeping, her shining eyes she turned away;
Whereby she made me swifter in my coming;

55 № 40 **A**nd unto thee I came, as she desired;
I have delivered thee from that wild beast,
Which barred the beautiful mountain's short ascent.

№ 41 **W**hat is it, then? Why, why dost thou delay?
Why is such baseness bedded in thy heart?
Daring and hardness why hast thou not

60 № 42 **S**eeing that three such Ladies benedict
Are caring for thee in the court of Heaven,
And so much good my speech doth promise thee?

№ 43 **E**ven as the flowerets, by nocturnal chill,
Blow down and closed, when the sun whitens them,
Uplift themselves all open on their stems;

65 № 44 **S**uch I became with my exhausted strength,
And such good courage to my heart there coursed,
That I began, like an intrepid person:



№ 45 **O** she compassionate, who succoured me,
 And courteous thou, who hast obeyed so soon
 The words of truth which she addressed to thee!
 № 46 **T**hou hast my heart so with desire disposed
 05 To the adventure, with these words of thine,
 That to my first intent I have returned.
 № 47 **N**ow go, for one sole will is in us both,
 Thou Leader, and thou Lord, and Master thou.
 Thus said I to him; and when he had moved,
 10 № 48 **I** entered on the deep and savage way.

CANTO III

№ 01 **T**hrough me the way is to the city dolent;
 Through me the way is to eternal dole;
 Through me the way among the people lost.
 № 02 **J**ustice incited my sublime Creator;
 20 Created me divine Omnipotence,
 The highest Wisdom and the primal Love.
 № 03 **B**efore me there were no created things,
 Only eterne, and I eternal last.
 All hope abandon, ye who enter in!
 25 № 04 **T**hese words in sombre colour I beheld
 Written upon the summit of a gate;
 Whence I: Their sense is, Master, hard to me!
 № 05 **A**nd he to me, as one experienced:
 Here all suspicion needs must be abandoned,
 30 All cowardice must needs be here extinct.
 We to the place have come, where I have told thee
 Thou shalt behold the people dolorous
 Who have foregone the good of intellect.
 № 07 **A**nd after he had laid his hand on mine
 35 With joyful mien, whence I was comforted,
 He led me in among the secret things.
 № 08 **T**here sighs, complaints, and ululations loud
 Resounded through the air without a star,
 Whence I, at the beginning, wept thereat.
 40 № 09 **L**anguages diverse, horrible dialects,
 Accents of anger, words of agony,
 And voices high and hoarse, with sound of hands,
 Made up a tumult that goes whirling on
 45 For ever in that air for ever black,
 Even as the sand both, when the whirlwind breathes.
 And I, who had my head with horror bound,
 № 11 **A**id: Master, what is this which now I hear?
 What folk is this, which seems by pain so banquished?
 50 And he to me: This miserable mode
 Maintain the melancholy souls of those
 Who lived withouten infamy or praise.
 № 13 **C**ommingled are they with that caitiff choir
 Of Angels, who have not rebellions been,
 Nor faithful were to God, but were for self.
 55 № 14 **T**he heavens expelled them, not to be less fair;
 Nor them the nethermore abyss receives,
 For glory none the damned would have from them.
 And I: O Master, what so grievous is
 60 To these, that maketh them lament so sore?
 He answered: I will tell thee very briefly.
 № 16 **T**hese have no longer any hope of death;
 And this blind life of theirs is so debased,
 They envious are of every other fate.
 № 17 **N**o fame of them the world permits to be;
 65 Misericord and Justice both disdain them.
 Let us not speak of them, but look, and pass.
 And I, who looked again, beheld a banner,
 Which, whirling round, ran on so rapidly,
 That of all pause it seemed to me indignant;

№ 19 **A**nd after it there came so long a train
 Of people, that I ne'er would have believed
 That ever Death so many had undone.
 № 20 **W**hen some among them I had recognised,
 05 I looked, and I beheld the shade of him
 Who made through cowardice the great refusal.
 № 21 **F**orthwith I comprehended, and was certain,
 That this the sect was of the caitiff wretches
 Hatelul to God and to his enemies.
 10 № 22 **T**hese miscreants, who never were alive,
 Were naked, and were stung exceedingly
 By gadflies and by hornets that were there.
 № 23 **T**hese did their faces irrigate with blood,
 15 Which, with their tears commingled, at their feet
 By the disgusting worms was gathered up.
 № 24 **A**nd when to gazing farther I betook me,
 People I saw on a great river's bank:
 Whence said I: Master, now vouchsafe to me,
 20 That I may know who these are, and what law
 Makes them appear so ready to pass o'er,
 As I discern athwart the dusky light.
 And he to me: These things shall all be known
 To thee, as soon as we our footsteps stay
 Upon the dismal shore of Acheron.
 25 № 27 **T**hen with mine eyes asham'd and downward cast,
 Fearing my words might irksome be to him,
 From speech restrained I till we reached the river.
 And lo! towards us coming in a boat
 № 28 **A**n old man, hoar'd with the hair of eld,
 30 Crying: Woe unto you, ye souls deprav'd!
 Hope nevermore to look upon the heavens;
 I come to lead you to the other shore,
 To the eternal shades in heat and frost.
 № 30 **A**nd thou, that ponder standest, living soul,
 35 Withdraw thee from these people, who are dead!
 But when he saw that I did not withdraw,
 He said: By other ways, by other ports
 Thou to the shore shalt come, not here, for passage;
 A lighter vessel needs must carry thee.
 40 № 32 **A**nd unto him the Guide: Vex thee not, Charon;
 It is so willed there where is power to do
 That which is willed; and farther question not.
 Thereat were quieted the sleep cheeks
 № 33 **O**f him the ferryman of the livid fen,
 45 Who round about his eyes had wheels of flame.
 But all those souls who weary were and naked
 Their colour changed and gnashed their teeth together,
 As soon as they had heard those cruel words.
 № 35 **G**od they blasphemed and their progenitors,
 50 The human race, the place, the time, the seed
 Of their engendering and of their birth!
 Thereafter all together they drew back,
 Writely weeping, to the accursed shore,
 Which waiteth every man who fears not God.
 55 № 37 **C**haron the demon, with the eyes of glebe,
 Weakening to them, collects them all together,
 Beats with his oar whoever lags behind,
 As in the autumn-time the leaves fall off,
 60 First one and then another, till the branch
 Unto the earth surrenders all its spoils;
 № 39 **I**n similar wise the evil seed of Adam
 Throw themselves from that margin one by one,
 At signals, as a bird unto its lure.
 № 40 **S**o they depart across the dusky wade,
 65 And ere upon the other side they land,
 Again on this side a new troop assembles.
 My son, the courteous Master said to me,
 № 41 **S**All those who perish in the wrath of God
 Here meet together out of every land;



№ 42 **A**nd ready are they to pass o'er the river,
 Because celestial Justice spurs them on,
 So that their fear is turned into desire.
 № 43 **T**his way there never passes a good soul;
 And hence if Charon both complain of thee,
 Well mayst thou know now what his speech imports.
 № 44 **T**his being finished, all the dusk champaign
 Trembled so violently, that of that terror
 The recollection bathes me still with sweat.
 10 № 45 **T**he land of tears gave forth a blast of wind,
 And fulminated a vermilion light,
 Which overmastered in me every sense,
 № 46 **A**nd as a man whom sleep hath seized I fell.

CANTO IV

№ 01 **B**roke the deep lethargy within my head
 A heavy thunder, so that I unstartcd,
 Like to a person who by force is awakened;
 № 02 **A**nd round about I moved my rested eyes,
 Uprisen erect, and steadfastly I gazed,
 To recognise the place wherein I was.
 25 № 03 **T**ruce is it, that upon the verge I found me
 Of the abysmal valley dolorous,
 That gathers thunder of infinite ululations.
 № 04 **O**bscure, profound it was, and nebulous,
 So that by fixing on its depths my sight
 Nothing whatever I discerned therein.
 30 № 05 **L**et us descend now into the blind world,
 Began the Poet, pallid utterly;
 I will be first, and thou shalt second be.
 № 06 **A**nd I, who of his colour was aware,
 35 **S**aid: How shall I come, if thou art afraid,
 Who'rt wont to be a comfort to my fears?
 № 07 **A**nd he to me: The anguish of the people
 Who are below here in my face depicts
 That pity which for terror thou hast taken.
 40 № 08 **L**et us go on, for the long way impels us.
 Thus he went in, and thus he made me enter
 The foremost circle that surrounds the abyss.
 № 09 **T**here, as it seemed to me from listening,
 Were lamentations none, but only sighs,
 45 That tremble made the everlasting air.
 № 10 **A**nd this arose from sorrow without toment,
 Which the crowds had, that many were and great,
 Of infants and of women and of men.
 № 11 **T**o me the Master good: Thou dost not ask
 50 What spirits these, which thou beholdest, are?
 How will I have thee know, ere thou go farther,
 That they sinned not; and if they merit had,
 'Tis not enough, because they had not baptism
 Which is the portal of the Faith thou holdest;
 55 № 13 **A**nd if they were before Christianity,
 In the right manner they adored not God;
 And among such as these am I myself.
 № 14 **F**or such begets, and not for other guilt,
 60 Lost are we and are only so far punished,
 That without hope we live on in desire.
 № 15 **G**reat grief seized on my heart when this I heard,
 Because some people of much worthiness
 I knew, who in that Limbo were suspended.
 № 16 **T**ell me, my Master, tell me, thou my Lord,
 65 **B**egan I, with desire of being certain
 Of that Faith which o'ercometh every error,
 Came any one by his own merit hence,
 Or by another's, who was blessed thereafter?
 And he, who understood my covert speech,

№ 18 **R**eplied: I was a novice in this state,
 When I saw hither come a Mighty One,
 With sign of victory incoronate.
 № 19 **H**ence he drew forth the shade of the First Parent,
 05 **A**nd that of his son Abel, and of Noah,
 Of Moses the lawgiver, and the obedient
 Abraham, patriarch, and David, king,
 № 20 **A**braham, patriarch, and David, king,
 Israel with his father and his children,
 And Rachel, for whose sake he did so much,
 10 № 21 **A**nd others many, and he made them blessed;
 And thou must know, that earlier than these
 Never were any human spirits saved.
 № 22 **W**e ceased not to advance because he spake,
 15 **W**ut still were passing onward through the forest,
 The forest, say I, of thick-crowded ghosts.
 № 23 **N**ot very far as yet our way had gone
 20 This side the summit, when I saw a fire
 That overcame a hemisphere of darkness.
 № 24 **W**e were a little distant from it still,
 But not so far that I in part discerned not
 That honourable people held that place.
 № 25 **O** thou who honourest every art and science,
 Who may these be, which such great honour have,
 25 № 26 **A**nd he to me: The honourable name,
 That sounds of them above there in thy life,
 Wins grace in Heaven, that so advances them.
 № 27 **I**n the mean time a voice was heard by me:
 30 All honour be to the pre-eminent Poet;
 His shade returns again, that was departed.
 № 28 **A**fter the voice had ceased and quiet was,
 Four mighty shades I saw approaching us;
 Semblance had they nor sorrowful nor glad.
 35 № 29 **T**o say to me began my gracious Master:
 Him with that falchion in his hand behold,
 Who comes before the three, even as their lord.
 № 30 **T**hat one is Homer, Poet sovereign;
 He who comes next is Horace, the satirist;
 The third is Ovid, and the last is Lucan.
 40 № 31 **B**ecause to each of these with me applies
 The name that solitary voice proclaimed,
 They do me honour, and in that do well.
 № 32 **T**hus I beheld assemble the fair school
 45 Of that lord of the song pre-eminent,
 Who o'er the others like an eagle soars.
 № 33 **W**hen they together had discoursed somewhat,
 They turned to me with signs of salutation,
 And on beholding this, my Master smiled;
 50 № 34 **A**nd more of honour still, much more, they did me,
 In that they made me one of their own band;
 So that the sixth was I, 'mid so much wit.
 № 35 **T**hus we went on as far as to the light,
 Things saying 'tis becoming to keep silent,
 As was the saying of them where I was.
 55 № 36 **W**e came unto a noble castle's foot,
 Seven times encompassed with lofty walls,
 Defended round by a fair riuulet;
 № 37 **T**his we passed over even as firm ground;
 60 Through portals seven I entered with these Sages;
 We came into a meadow of fresh verdure.
 № 38 **P**eople were there with solemn eyes and slow,
 Of great authority in their countenance;
 They spake but seldom, and with gentle voices.
 65 № 39 **T**hus we withdrew ourselves upon one side
 Into an opening luminous and lofty,
 So that they all of them were visible.
 № 40 **T**here opposite, upon the green enamel,
 Were pointed out to me the mighty spirits,
 Whom to have seen I feel myself exalted.



№ 41 **I** saw Electra with companions many,
 Amongst whom I knew both Hector and Aeneas,
 Caesar in armour with germanic eyes;
 № 42 **I** saw Camilla and Penthesilea
 On the other side, and saw the King Latinus,
 Who with Lavinia his daughter sat;
 № 43 **I** saw that Brutus who drove Tarquin forth,
 Lucretia, Julia, Marcia, and Cornelia,
 And saw alone, apart, the Saladin.
 10 № 44 **W**hen I had lifted up my brows a little,
 The Master I beheld of those who know,
 Sit with his philosophic family.
 № 45 **A**ll gaze upon him, and all do him honour.
 There I beheld both Socrates and Plato,
 Who nearer him before the others stand;
 № 46 **D**emocritus, who puts the world on chance,
 Diogenes, Anaxagoras, and Thales,
 Zeno, Empedocles, and Heraclitus;
 № 47 **O**f qualities I saw the good collector,
 Hygiea Dioscorides; and Orpheus saw I,
 Tully and Livy, and moral Seneca,
 № 48 **E**uclid, geometrician, and Polemy,
 Galen, Hippocrates, and Avicenna,
 Averroes, who the great Comment made.
 25 № 49 **I** cannot all of them pourtray in full,
 Because so drives me onward the long theme,
 That many times the word comes short of fact.
 № 50 **T**he sixfold company in two divides;
 Another way my sapient Guide conducts me
 Forth from the quiet to the air that trembles;
 30 № 51 **A**nd to a place I come where nothing shines.

CANTO V

№ 01 **T**hus I descended out of the first circle
 Down to the second, that less space begirds,
 And so much greater dole, that goads to wailing.
 40 № 02 **T**here standeth Minos horribly, and snarls;
 Examines the transgressions at the entrance;
 Judges, and sends according as he girds him.
 № 03 **I** say, that when the spirit evil-born
 Cometh before him, wholly it confesses;
 And this discriminator of transgressions
 45 № 04 **S**eech what place in Hell is meet for it;
 Birds himself with his tail as many times
 As grades he wishes it should be thrust down.
 № 05 **A**lways before him many of them stand;
 They go by turns each one unto the judgment;
 They speak, and hear, and then are downward hurled.
 № 06 **O** thou, that to this dolorous hostelry
 Comest, said Minos to me, when he saw me,
 Leaving the practice of so great an office,
 55 № 07 **L**ook how thou enterest, and in whom thou trustest;
 Let not the portal's amplitude deceive thee.
 And unto him my Guide: Why criest thou too?
 Do not impede his journey fate-ordained;
 № 08 **I**t is so willed there where is power to do
 That which is willed; and ask no further question.
 60 № 09 **A**nd now begin the dolesome notes to grow
 Audible unto me; now am I come
 Where where much lamentation strikes upon me.
 № 10 **I** came into a place mute of all light,
 Which bellows as the sea does in a tempest,
 If by opposing winds 't is combated.
 65 № 11 **T**he infernal hurricane that never rests
 Hurties the spirits onward in its rapine;
 Whirling them round, and smiting, it molests them.

№ 12 **W**hen they arrive before the precipice,
 There are the shrieks, the plaints, and the laments,
 Where they blaspheme the puissance divine.
 № 13 **I** understood that unto such a torment
 The carnal malefactors were condemned,
 Who reason subjugate to appetite.
 № 14 **A**nd as the wings of starlings bear them on
 In the cold season in large band and full,
 So doth that blast the spirits maledict;
 10 № 15 **I**t hither, thither, downward, upward, drives them;
 No hope doth comfort them for evermore,
 Not of repose, but even of lesser pain.
 № 16 **A**nd as the cranes go chanting forth their lays,
 Making in air a long line of themselves,
 So saw I coming, uttering lamentations,
 15 № 17 **S**hadows borne onward by the aforesaid stress.
 Whereupon said I: Master, who are those
 People, whom the black air so castigates?
 № 18 **T**he first of those, of whom intelligence
 Thou faint wouldest have, then said he unto me,
 The empress was of many languages.
 № 19 **T**o sensual bices she was so abandoned,
 That lustful she made licit in her law,
 To remove the blame to which she had been led.
 25 № 20 **S**he is Semiramis, of whom we read
 That she succeeded Ninus, and was his spouse;
 She held the land which now the Sultan rules.
 № 21 **T**he next is she who killed herself for love,
 And broke faith with the ashes of Sigeaus;
 30 Then Cleopatra the voluptuous.
 № 22 **H**elen I saw, for whom so many ruthless
 Seasons revolved; and saw the great Achilles,
 Who at the last hour combated with Loe.
 35 № 23 **P**aris I saw, Cristian; and more than a thousand
 Shades did he name and point out with his finger,
 Whom Loe had separated from our life.
 № 24 **A**fter that I had listened to my Teacher,
 Flaming the dames of old and cavaliers,
 Pity prevailed, and I was nigh bewildered.
 40 № 25 **A**nd I began: O Poet, willingly
 Speak would I to those two, who go together,
 And seem upon the wind to be so light.
 № 26 **A**nd, he to me: Thou'lt mark, when they shall be
 Nearer to us; and then do thou implore them
 45 My love which leadeth them, and they will come.
 № 27 **S**oon as the wind in our direction sways them,
 My voice uplift I: O ye weary souls!
 Come speak to us, if no one interdicts it.
 № 28 **A**s turtle-doves, called onward by desire,
 With open and steady wings to the sweet nest
 Fly through the air by their volition borne,
 50 № 29 **S**o came they from the band where Dido is,
 Approaching us athwart the air malign,
 So strong was the affectionate appeal.
 № 30 **O** living creature gracious and benignant,
 Who visiting goest through the purple air
 Us, who have stained the world in incarnadine,
 55 № 31 **I**f were the King of the Underworld our friend,
 We would pray unto him to give thee peace,
 Since thou hast pity on our woe perverse.
 № 32 **O**f what it pleases thee to hear and speak,
 That will we hear, and we will speak to you,
 While silent is the wind, as it is now.
 60 № 33 **S**itteth the city, wherein I was born,
 Upon the sea-shore where the Po descends
 To rest in peace with all his retinue.
 № 34 **L**ove, that on gentle heart doth swiftly seize,
 Seized this man for the person beautiful
 That was ta'en from me, and still the mode offends me.



№ 35 **L**ove, that exempts no one beloved from loving,
 Seized me with pleasure of this man so strongly,
 That, as thou seest, it both not yet desert me;
 № 36 **L**ove has conducted us unto one death;
 05 **C**aina waiteth him who quenched our life!
 These words were borne along from them to us.
 № 37 **A**s soon as I had heard those souls tormented,
 I bowed my face, and so long held it down
 Until the Poet said to me: What thinkest?
 10 № 38 **W**hen I made answer, I began: Alas!
 How many pleasant thoughts, how much desire,
 Conducted these unto the dolorous pass!
 № 39 **T**hen unto them I turned me, and I spake,
 And I began: Thine agonies, Francesca,
 15 **S**ad and compassionate to weeping make me.
 But tell me, at the time of those sweet sighs,
 № 40 **B**y what and in what manner Love conceded,
 That you should know your dubious desires?
 № 41 **A**nd she to me: There is no greater sorrow
 20 **T**han to be mindful of the happy time
 In misery, and that thy Teacher knows.
 № 42 **B**ut, if to recognise the earliest root
 Of love in us thou hast so great desire,
 I will do even as he who weeps and speaks.
 25 № 43 **O**ne day we reading were for our delight
 Of Launcelot, how Love did him entral.
 Alone we were and without any fear.
 № 44 **F**ull many a time our eyes together drew
 That reading, and drove the colour from our faces;
 30 **B**ut one point only was it that o'ercame us.
 When as we read of the much-longed-for smile
 № 45 **W**eing by such a noble lover kissed,
 This one, who ne'er from me shall be divided,
 35 **K**issed me upon the mouth all palpitating.
 Calcoatto was the book and he who wrote it.
 That day no farther did we read therein.
 № 47 **A**nd all the while one spirit uttered this,
 The other one did weep so, that, for pity,
 40 № 48 **I** swooned away as if I had been dying,
 And fell, even as a dead body falls.

CANTO VI

45 № 01 **A**t the return of consciousness, that closed
 Before the pity of those two relations,
 Which utterly with sadness had confused me,
 № 02 **N**ew torments I behold, and new tormented
 50 **A**round me, whichever way I move,
 And whichever way I turn, and gaze.
 № 03 **I**n the third circle am I of the rain
 Eternal, maledict, and cold, and heavy;
 His law and quality are never new.
 55 № 04 **H**uge hail, and water sombre-hued, and snow,
 Athwart the tenebrous air pour down amain;
 Noisome the earth is, that receiveth this.
 № 05 **C**erberus, monster cruel and uncouth,
 60 **W**ith his three gullets like a dog is barking
 Over the people that are there submerged.
 № 06 **R**ed eyes he has, and unctuous beard and black,
 And belly large, and armed with claws his hands;
 He rends the spirits, flaps, and quarters them.
 65 № 07 **H**ow the rain maketh them like unto dogs;
 One side they make a shelter for the other;
 Off turn themselves the wretched reprobates.
 № 08 **W**hen Cerberus perceived us, the great worm!
 His mouths he opened, and displayed his tusks;
 Not a limb had he that was motionless.

№ 09 **A**nd my Conductor, with his spans extended,
 Took of the earth, and with his fists well filled,
 He threw it into those rapacious gullets.
 № 10 **S**uch as that dog is, who by barking craves,
 05 **A**nd quiet grows soon as his food he gnaws,
 For to devour it he but thinks and struggles;
 № 11 **T**he like became those muzzles filthy-begrimed
 Of Cerberus the demon, who so thunders
 Over the souls that they would fain be deaf.
 10 № 12 **W**e passed across the shabuous, which subdues
 The heavy rain-storm, and we placed our feet
 Upon their vanity that person seems.
 № 13 **T**hey all were lying prone upon the earth,
 15 **E**xcepting one, who sat upright as soon
 As he beheld us passing on before him.
 № 14 **O** thou that art conducted through this Hell,
 He said to me, recall me, if thou canst;
 Thyself wast made before I was unmade,
 20 **A**nd I to him: The anguish which thou hast
 Perhaps dost draw thee out of my remembrance,
 So that it seems not I have ever seen thee.
 № 16 **B**ut tell me who thou art, that in so doleful
 A place art put, and in such punishment,
 If some are greater, none is so displeasing.
 25 № 17 **A**nd he to me: Thy city, which is full
 Of envy so that now the sack runs over,
 Held me within it in the life serene.
 № 18 **Y**ou citizens were wont to call me Ciaccio;
 30 **F**or the pernicious sin of gluttony
 I, as thou seest, am battered by this rain.
 № 19 **A**nd I, sad soul, am not the only one,
 For all these suffer the like penalty
 For the like sin; and word no more spake he.
 35 **I** answered him: Ciaccio, thy wretchedness
 Weighs on me so that it to weep invites me;
 But tell me, if thou knowest, to what shall come
 № 21 **T**he citizens of the divided city;
 If any there be just; and the occasion
 Tell me why so much discord has assailed it.
 40 № 22 **A**nd he to me: They, after long contention,
 Will come to bloodshed; and the rustic party
 Will drive the other out with much offence.
 № 23 **T**hen afterwards behoves it this one fall
 45 **W**ithin three suns, and rise again the other
 By force of him who now is on the coast.
 № 24 **H**igh will it hold its forehead a long while,
 Keeping the other under heavy burdens,
 How'er it weeps thereat and is indignant.
 50 № 25 **T**he just are two, and are not understood there;
 Envy and Arrogance and Avarice
 Are the three sparks that have all hearts enkindled.
 № 26 **H**ere ended he his fearful utterance;
 55 **A**nd I to him: I wish thee still to teach me,
 And make a gift to me of further speech.
 № 27 **F**arinata and Tegghiaio, once so worthy,
 Jacopo Rusticucci, Arrigo, and Mosca,
 And others who on good deeds set their thoughts,
 60 **S**ay where they are, and cause that I may know them;
 For great desire constrained me to learn
 If Heaven dost sweeten them, or Hell envenom.
 № 29 **A**nd he: They are among the blacker souls;
 A different sin downweighs them to the bottom;
 If thou so far descendest, thou canst see them.
 65 **B**ut when thou art again in the sweet world,
 I pray thee to the mind of others bring me;
 No more I tell thee and no more I answer.
 № 31 **T**hen his straightforward eyes he turned askance,
 Eyed me a little, and then bowed his head;
 He fell therewith prone like the other blind.



№ 32 **A**nd the Guide said to me: He wakes no more
 This side the sound of the angelic trumpet;
 When shall approach the hostile Potentate,
 № 33 **E**ach one shall find again his dismal tomb,
 Shall reassume his flesh and his own figure,
 Shall hear what through eternity re-echoes.
 № 34 **S**o we passed onward o'er the filthy mixture
 Of shadows and of rain with footsteps slow,
 Touching a little on the future life.
 10 № 35 **W**herefore I said: Master, these torments here,
 Will they increase after the mighty sentence,
 Or lesser be, or will they be as burning?
 № 36 **A**nd he to me: Return unto thy science,
 Which wils, that as the thing more perfect is,
 The more it feels of pleasure and of pain.
 15 № 37 **A**lbeit that this people maledict
 To true perfection never can attain,
 Hereafter more than now they look to be.
 № 38 **R**ound in a circle by that road we went,
 20 Speaking much more, which I do not repeat;
 We came unto the point where the descent is:
 № 39 **T**here we found Plutus the great enemy.

CANTO VII

№ 01 **P**ape Satan, Pape Satan, Aleppe!
 Thus Plutus with his ducking voice began;
 And that benignant Sage, who all things knew,
 30 Said, to encourage me: Let not thy fear
 Harm thee; for any power that he may have
 Shall not prevent thy going down this crag.
 № 02 **S**Then he turned round unto that bloated lip,
 And said: We silent, thou accursed wolf,
 35 Consume within thyself with thine own rage.
 № 03 **T**Not causeless is this journey to the abyss;
 Thus is it willed on high, where Michael wrought
 Vengeance upon the proud adulterer.
 № 04 **N**Even as the sails inflated by the wind
 40 Involved together fall when snaps the mast,
 So fell the cruel monster to the earth.
 № 05 **E**Thus we descended into the fourth chasm,
 Gaining still farther on the dolesome shore
 Which all the woe of the universe insacks.
 45 № 06 **T**Justice of God, ah! who heaps up so many
 New toils and sufferings as I behold?
 And why doth our transgression waste us so?
 № 07 **A**s doth the billow there upon Charibdis,
 50 That breaks itself on that which it encounters,
 So here the folk must dance their roundelay.
 № 08 **H**ere saw I people, more than elsewhere, many,
 On one side and the other, with great howls,
 Rolling weights forward by main force of chest.
 55 № 09 **T**They clashed together, and then at that point
 Each one turned backward, rolling retrograde,
 Crying, Why keepest? and, Why squanderest thou?
 № 10 **T**Thus they returned along the lurid circle
 60 On either hand unto the opposite point,
 Shouting their shameful metre evermore.
 № 11 **T**Then each, when he arrived there, wheeled about
 Through his half-circle to another joust;
 And I, who had my heart pierced as it were,
 65 № 12 **E**xclaimed: My Master, now declare to me
 What people these are, and if all were clerks,
 These shaven crowns upon the left of us.
 № 13 **A**nd he to me: All of them were asquint
 In intellect in the first life, so much
 70 That there with measure they no spending made.

№ 15 **C**learly enough their voices bark it forth,
 When'er they reach the two points of the circle,
 Where sunders them the opposite defect.
 № 16 **C**Clerks those were who no hairy covering
 05 Had on the head, and Dopes and Cardinals,
 In whom doth Avarice practise its excess.
 № 17 **A**nd I: My Master, among such as these
 I ought forsooth to recognise some few,
 Who were infected with these maladies.
 10 № 18 **A**nd he to me: Vain thought thou entertainest;
 The undiscerning life which made them sordid
 Now makes them unto all discernment dim.
 № 19 **F**orever shall they come to these two buttings;
 15 These from the sepulchre shall rise again
 With the fist closed, and these with tresses shorn.
 № 20 **I**All going and ill keeping the fair world
 Have ta'en from them, and placed them in this scuffle;
 Whate'er it be, no words adorn I for it.
 20 № 21 **N**ow canst thou, Son, behold the transient face
 Of goods that are committed unto Fortune,
 For which the human race each other buffet;
 № 22 **F**or all the gold that is beneath the moon,
 Or ever has been, of these weary souls
 Could never make a single one repose.
 25 № 23 **M**aster, I said to him, now tell me also
 What is this Fortune which thou speakest of,
 That has the world's goods so within its clutches?
 № 24 **A**nd he to me: O creatures imberle,
 30 What ignorance is this which doth beset you?
 Now will I have thee learn my judgment of her.
 № 25 **H**er whose omniscience everything transcends
 The heavens created, and gave who should guide them,
 That every part to every part may shine,
 35 Distributing the light in equal measure;
 He in like manner to the mundane splendours
 Ordained a general ministrance and guide,
 № 26 **D**That she might change at times the empty treasures
 40 From race to race, from one blood to another,
 Beyond resistance of all human wisdom.
 № 27 **T**Therefore one people triumphs, and another
 45 Languishes, in pursuance of her judgment,
 Which hidden is, as in the grass a serpent.
 № 28 **T**Your knowledge has no counterstand against her;
 She makes provision, judges, and pursues
 Her governance, as theirs the other gods.
 50 № 29 **H**er permutations have not any truce;
 Necessity makes her precipitate,
 So often cometh who his turn obtains.
 № 30 **H**And this is she who is so crucified
 55 Even by those who ought to give her praise,
 Giving her blame amiss, and bad repute.
 № 31 **A**But she is blissful, and she hears it not;
 Among the other primal creatures gladsome
 She turns her sphere, and blissful she rejoices.
 60 № 32 **B**Let us descend now unto greater woe;
 Already sinks each star that was ascending
 When I set out, and loitering is forbidden.
 № 33 **L**We crossed the circle to the other bank,
 65 Near to a fount that boils, and pours itself
 Along a gully that runs out of it.
 № 34 **W**The water was more sombre far than perse;
 And we, in company with the dusky waves,
 Made entrance downward by a path uncouth.
 № 35 **A**A marsh it makes, which has the name of Styx,
 This trisulc brooklet, when it has descended
 Down to the foot of the malign gray shores.
 70 № 36 **A**And I, who stood intent upon beholding,
 Saw people mud-besprent in that lagoon,
 All of them naked and with angry look.



№ 38 **T**hey smote each other not alone with hands,
 But with the head and with the breast and feet,
 Tearing each other piecemeal with their teeth.
 № 39 **S**aid the good Master: Son, thou now beholdest
 05 The souls of those whom anger overcame;
 And likewise I would have thee know for certain
 № 40 **B**eneath the water people are who sigh
 And make this water bubble at the surface,
 As the eye tells thee wheresoe'er it turns.
 10 № 41 **F**ixed in the mire they say, 'We sullen were
 In the sweet air, which by the sun is gladdened,
 Wearing within ourselves the sluggish reek;
 № 42 **N**ow we are sullen in this sable mire.'
 15 This hymn do they keep gurgling in their throats,
 For with unbroken words they cannot say it.
 № 43 **T**hus we went circling round the fifty fen
 A great ear 'twixt the dry bank and the swamp,
 With eyes turned unto those who gorge the mire;
 № 44 **U**nto the foot of a tower we came at last.
 20

CANTO VIII

25 № 01 **I** say, continuing, that long before
 We to the foot of that high tower had come,
 Our eyes went upward to the summit of it,
 № 02 **B**y reason of two flamelets we saw placed there,
 And from afar another answer them,
 30 So far, that hardly could the eye attain it.
 And, to the sea of all discernment turned,
 № 03 **A** said: What sapest this, and what respondenth
 That other fire? and who are they that made it?
 № 04 **A**nd he to me: Across the turbid waves
 35 What is expected thou canst now discern,
 If reek of the morass conceal it not.
 № 05 **C**ord never shot an arrow from itself
 That sped away athwart the air so swift,
 As I beheld a very little boat
 40 № 06 **C**ome o'er the water tow'rd's us at that moment,
 Under the guidance of a single pilot,
 Who shouted, Now art thou arrived, fell soul?
 № 07 **P**hlegyas, Phlegyas, thou criest out in vain
 For this once, said my Lord; thou shalt not have us
 45 Longer than in the passing of the slough.
 As he who listens to some great deceit
 № 08 **A** That has been done to him, and then resents it,
 Such became Phlegyas, in his gathered wrath.
 № 09 **M**y Guide descended down into the boat,
 50 And then he made me enter after him,
 And only when I entered seemed it laden.
 № 10 **S**oon as the Guide and I were in the boat,
 The antique prow goes on its way, dividing
 More of the water than 'tis wont with others.
 55 № 11 **W**hile we were running through the dead canal,
 Uprose in front of me one full of mire,
 And said, Who 'rt thou that comest ere the hour?
 № 12 **A**nd I to him: Although I come, I stay not;
 But who art thou that hast become so squalid?
 60 Upon seest that I am one who weeps, he answered.
 And I to him: With weeping and with wailing,
 Thou spirit maledict, do thou remain;
 For thee I know, though thou art all defiled.
 № 14 **T**hen stretched he both his hands unto the boat;
 65 Whereat my wary Master thrust him back,
 Saying, Away there with the other dogs!
 № 15 **T**hereafter with his arms he clasped my neck;
 We kissed my face, and said: Disbainful soul,
 Blessed be she who bore thee in her bosom.

№ 16 **T**hat was an arrogant person in the world;
 Goodness is none, that decks his memory;
 So likewise here his shade is furious.
 № 17 **H**ow many are esteemed great kings up there,
 05 Who here shall be like unto swine in mire,
 Leaving behind them horrible dispraisals!
 № 18 **A**nd I: My Master, much should I be pleased,
 If I could see him soused into this broth,
 Before we issue forth out of the lake.
 10 № 19 **A**nd he to me: Ere unto thee the shore
 Reveal itself, thou shalt be satisfied;
 Such a desire 'tis meet thou shouldst enjoy.
 № 20 **A** little after that, I saw such havor
 Made of him by the people of the mire,
 15 That still I praise and thank my God for it.
 They all were shouting, At Philippo Argenti!
 № 21 **T**hat exasperate spirit Florentine
 Turned round upon himself with his own teeth.
 We left him there, and more of him I tell not;
 20 But on mine ears there smote a lamentation,
 Whence forward I intent upon mine eyes.
 № 23 **A**nd the good Master said: Even now, my Son,
 The city draweth near whose name is Dis,
 With the grave citizens, with the great throng.
 25 № 24 **A**nd I: His mosques already, Master, clearly
 Within there in the valley I discern
 Vermilion, as if issuing from the fire
 № 25 **T**hey were. And he to me: The fire eternal
 30 That kindles them within makes them look red,
 As thou beholdest in this nether Hell.
 Then we arrived within the moats profound,
 № 26 **T**hat circumvallate that disconsolate city;
 The walls appeared to me to be of iron.
 № 27 **N**ot without making first a circuit wide,
 35 We came unto a place where loud the pilot
 Cried out to us, Debark, here is the entrance.
 More than a thousand at the gates I saw
 № 28 **M**ore than a thousand at the gates I saw
 Out of the heavens rained down, who angrily
 40 № 29 **C**ame through the kingdom of the people dead?
 And my sagacious Master made a sign
 Of wishing secretly to speak with them.
 № 30 **A** little then they quelled their great disdain,
 And said: Come thou alone, and he begone
 45 Who has so boldly entered these dominions.
 Let him return alone by his mad road;
 № 31 **I** Try, if he can; for thou shalt here remain,
 Who hast escorted him through such dark regions.
 № 32 **T**hink, Reader, if I was discomfited
 50 At utterance of the accursed words;
 For never to return here I believed.
 № 33 **O** my dear Guide, who more than seven times
 Hast rendered me security, and drawn me
 From imminent peril that before me stood,
 55 № 34 **D**o not desert me, said I, thus undone;
 And if the going farther be denied us,
 Let us retrace our steps together swiftly.
 And that Lord, who had led me thitherward,
 60 № 35 **A**id unto me: Fear not; because our passage
 None can take from us, it by such is given.
 But here await me, and thy weary spirit
 № 36 **B** Comfort and nourish with a better hope;
 For in this nether world I will not leave thee.
 № 37 **S**o onward goes and there abandons me
 65 My Father sweet, and I remain in doubt,
 For I do and I do not within my head contend.
 I could not hear what he proposed to them;
 № 38 **I** But with them there he did not linger long,
 Ere each within in rivalry ran back.



Inferno
33-38

Int. OS
Com. OS

№ 39 **T**hey closed the portals, those our adversaries,
 On my Lord's breast, who had remained without
 And turned to me with footsteps far between.
 № 40 **H**is eyes cast down, his forehead shorn had he
 Of all its boldness, and he said, with sighs,
 Who has denied to me the wholesome houses?
 № 41 **A**nd unto me: Thou, because I am angry,
 Fear not, for I will conquer in the trial,
 Whatever for defence within be planned.
 10 № 42 **T**his arrogance of theirs is nothing new;
 For once they used it at less secret gate,
 Which finds itself without a fastening still.
 № 43 **O**er it bidst thou behold the dead inscription;
 And now this side of it descends the steep,
 Passing across the circles without escort.
 15 № 44 **O**ne by whose means the city shall be opened.

CANTO IX

№ 01 **T**hat hue which cowardice brought out on me,
 Beholding my Conductor backward turn,
 Sooner repressed within him his new colour.
 25 № 02 **H**e stopped attentive, like a man who listens,
 Because the eye could not conduct him far
 Through the black air, and through the heavy fog.
 № 03 **S**till it behoveth us to win the fight,
 Wegan he; Else... Such offered us herself...
 30 № 04 **W**ell I perceived, as soon as the beginning
 He covered up with what came afterward,
 That they were words quite different from the first;
 № 05 **B**ut none the less his saying gave me fear,
 Because I carried out the broken phrase,
 Perhaps to a worse meaning than he had.
 № 06 **I**nto this bottom of the useful conch
 Noth any e'er descend from the first grade,
 Which for its pain has only hope cut off?
 40 № 07 **T**his question put I; and he answered me:
 Seldom it comes to pass that one of us
 Maketh the journey upon which I go.
 № 08 **T**rue is it, once before I here below
 Was conjured by that pitiless Erichtho,
 Who summoned back the shades unto their bodies.
 45 № 09 **N**aked of me short while the flesh had been,
 Before within that wall she made me enter,
 To bring a spirit from the circle of Judas;
 № 10 **T**hat is the lowest region and the darkest,
 And farthest from the heaven which circles all.
 Well know I the way; therefore be reassured.
 № 11 **T**his fen, which a prodigious stench exhales,
 Encompasses about the city dolent,
 Where now we cannot enter without anger.
 55 № 12 **A**nd more he said, but not in mind I have it;
 Because mine eye had altogether drawn me
 Tow'rd the high tower with the red-flaming summit,
 № 13 **W**here in a moment saw I swift uprisen
 The three infernal Furies stained with blood,
 Who had the limbs of women and their mien,
 60 № 14 **A**nd with the greenest hydras were begirt,
 Small serpents and cerastes were their tresses,
 Wherewith their horrid temples were entwined.
 № 15 **A**nd he who well the handmaids of the Queen
 Of everlasting lamentation knew,
 Said unto me: Behold the fierce Erinnyes.
 65 № 16 **T**his is Megaera, on the left-hand side;
 She who is weeping on the right, Alecto;
 Tisiphone is between; and then was silent.

№ 17 **E**ach one her breast was rending with her nails;
 They beat them with their palms, and cried so loud,
 That I for dread pressed close unto the Poet.
 № 18 **M**edusa come, so we to stone will change him!
 05 All spouted looking down; in evil hour
 Avenged we not on Theseus his assault!
 № 19 **T**urn thyself round, and keep thine eyes close shut,
 For if the Gorgon appear, and thou shouldst see it,
 No more returning upward would there be.
 10 № 20 **T**hus said the Master; and he turned me round
 Himself, and trusted not unto my hands
 So far as not to blind me with his own.
 № 21 **O**pe who have unbistempere intellects,
 Observe the doctrine that conceals itself
 Beneath the veil of the mysterious verses!
 15 № 22 **A**nd now there came across the turbid waves
 The clangour of a sound with terror fraught,
 Because of which both of the margins trembled;
 № 23 **N**ot otherwise it was than of a wind
 Impetuous on account of adverse heats,
 That smites the forest, and, without restraint,
 20 № 24 **T**he branches rends, beats down, and bears away;
 Right onward, laden with dust, it goes superb,
 And puts to flight the wild beasts and the shepherds.
 25 № 25 **M**ine eyes he loosed, and said: Direct the nerve
 Of vision now along that ancient foam,
 Where ponder where that smoke is most intense.
 № 26 **E**ven as the frogs before the hostile serpent
 Across the water scatter all abroad,
 30 Until each one is huddled in the earth,
 № 27 **M**ore than a thousand ruined souls I saw,
 Thus fleeing from before one who on foot
 Was passing o'er the Styx with soles unwet.
 № 28 **F**rom off his face he fanned that unctuous air,
 35 Waving his left hand off in front of him,
 And only with that anguish seemed he weary.
 № 29 **W**ell I perceived one sent from Heaven was he,
 And to the Master turned; and he made sign
 That I should quiet stand, and bow before him.
 40 № 30 **A**h! how disdainful he appeared to me!
 He reached the gate, and with a little rod
 He opened it, for there was no resistance.
 № 31 **O** banished out of Heaven, people despised!
 45 Whence he began upon the horrid threshold;
 № 32 **W**hence is this arrogance within you couched?
 Wherefore recalcitrate against that will,
 From which the end can never be cut off,
 And which has many times increased your pain?
 50 № 33 **W**hat helpeth it to butt against the fates?
 Pour Cerberus, if you remember well,
 For that still bears his chin and gullet peeled.
 № 34 **T**hen he returned along the miry road,
 And spake no word to us, but had the look
 Of one whom other care constrains and goads
 55 № 35 **T**han that of him who in his presence is;
 And we our feet directed tow'rd the city,
 After those holy words all confident.
 Within we entered without any contest;
 № 36 **W**And I, who inclination had to see
 60 What the condition such a fortress holds,
 № 37 **S**oon as I was within, cast round mine eye,
 And see on every hand an ample plain,
 Full of bistress and torment terrible.
 № 38 **E**ven as at Arelis, where stagnant grows the Rhone,
 65 That shuts in Italy and bathes its borders,
 The sepulchres make all the place uneven;
 So likewise bid they there on every side,
 Saving that there the manner was more bitter;



№ 40 **F**or flames between the sepulchres were scattered,
 Whych they so intensely heated were,
 That iron more so asks not any art.
 № 41 **A**ll of their coverings uplifted were,
 And from them issued forth such dire lamentes,
 Sooth seemed they of the wretched and torment.
 № 42 **A**nd I: My Master, what are all those people
 Who, having sepulture within those tombs,
 Make themselves audible by doleful sighs?
 № 43 **A**nd he to me: There are the Heresiarchs,
 With their disciples of all sects, and much
 More than thou thinkest laden are the tombs.
 № 44 **H**ere like together with its like is buried;
 And more and less the monuments are heated.
 № 45 **B**etween the torments and high parapets.

CANTO X

№ 01 **N**ow onward goes, along a narrow path
 Between the torments and the city wall,
 My Master, and I follow at his back.
 № 02 **O** power supreme, that through these impious circles
 Turnest me, I began, as pleases thee,
 Speak to me, and my longings satisfy;
 № 03 **T**he people who are lying in these tombs,
 Might they be seen? already are uplifted
 The covers all, and no one keepeth guard.
 № 04 **A**nd he to me: They all will be closed up
 When from Jehoshaphat they shall return
 Here with the bodies they have left above.
 № 05 **T**heir cemetery have upon this side
 With Epicurus all his followers,
 Who with the body mortal make the soul;
 № 06 **B**ut in the question thou dost put to me,
 Within here shalt thou soon be satisfied,
 And likewise in the wish thou keepest silent.
 № 07 **A**nd I: Good Leader, I but keep concealed
 From thee my heart, that I may speak the less,
 For only now hast thou them disposed me.
 № 08 **O** Tuscan, thou who through the city of fire
 Goest alive, thus speaking modestly,
 We pleased to stay thy footsteps in this place.
 № 09 **T**hy mode of speaking makes thee manifest
 A native of that noble fatherland,
 To which perhaps I too molestful was.
 № 10 **U**pon a sudden issued forth this sound
 From out one of the tombs; wherefore I pressed,
 Fearing, a little nearer to my Leader.
 № 11 **A**nd unto me he said: Turn thee; what dost thou?
 Behold there Farinata who has risen;
 From the waist upwards wholly shalt thou see him.
 № 12 **I** had already fixed mine eyes on his,
 And he uprose erect with breast and front
 E'en as if Hell he had in great despise.
 № 13 **A**nd with courageous hands and prompt my Leader
 Trust me between the sepulchres towards him,
 Exclaiming, Let thy words explicit be.
 № 14 **A**nd he: As soon as I was at the foot of his tomb
 Somewhat he eyed me, and, as if disdainful,
 Then asked of me, Who were thine ancestors?
 № 15 **I**, who desirous of obeying was,
 Concealed it not, but all revealed to him;
 Whereat he raised his brows a little upward.
 № 16 **T**hen said he: Fiercely adverse have they been
 To me, and to my fathers, and my party;
 So that two several times I scattered them.

№ 17 **I**f they were banished, they returned on all sides,
 I answered him, the first time and the second;
 But yours have not acquired that art aright.
 № 18 **T**hen there uprose upon the sight, uncovered
 Down to the chin, a shadow at his side;
 I think that he had risen on his knees.
 № 19 **R**ound me he gazed, as if solicitude
 He had to see if some one else were with me,
 But after his suspicion was all spent,
 № 20 **W**eeping, he said to me: If through his blind
 Prison thou goest by loftiness of genius,
 Where is my son? and why is he not with thee?
 № 21 **A**nd I to him: I come not of myself;
 He who is waiting ponder leads me here,
 Whom in disdain perhaps pour Guido had.
 № 22 **H**is language and the mode of punishment
 Already unto me had read his name;
 On that account my answer was so full.
 № 23 **U**pon starting suddenly, he cried out: How
 Saidst thou, he had? Is he not still alive?
 Does not the sweet light strike upon his eyes?
 № 24 **W**hen he became aware of some delay,
 Which I before my answer made, supine
 He fell again, and forth appeared no more.
 № 25 **B**ut the other, magnanimous, at whose desire
 I had remained, did not his aspect change,
 Neither his neck he moved, nor bent his side.
 № 26 **A**nd if, continuing his first discourse,
 They hate that art, he said, not learned aright,
 That more tormenteth me, than doth this bed.
 № 27 **B**ut fifty times shall not rekindle be
 The countenance of the Lady who reigns here,
 Ere thou shalt know how heavy is that art;
 № 28 **A**nd as thou wouldst to the sweet world return,
 Say why that people is so pitiless
 Against my race in each one of its laws?
 № 29 **W**hence I to him: The slaughter and great carnage
 Which have with crimson stained the Arbia, cause
 Such orisons in our temple to be made.
 № 30 **A**fter his head he with a sigh had shaken,
 There I was not alone, he said, nor surely
 Without a cause had with the others moved.
 № 31 **B**ut there I was alone, where every one
 Consented to the laying waste of Florence,
 He who defended her with open face.
 № 32 **A**h! so hereafter may your seed repose,
 I him entreated, solve for me that knot,
 Which has entangled me by conceptions here.
 № 33 **I**t seems that you can see, if I hear rightly,
 Beforehand whatso'er time brings with it,
 And in the present have another mode.
 № 34 **W**e see, like those who have imperfect sight,
 The things, he said, that distant are from us;
 So much still shines on us the Sovereign Ruler.
 № 35 **W**hen they draw near, or are, is wholly vain
 Our intellect, and if none brings it to us,
 Not anything know we of your human state.
 № 36 **H**ence thou canst understand, that wholly dead
 Will be our knowledge from the moment when
 The portal of the future shall be closed.
 № 37 **T**hen I, as if compunctious for my fault,
 Said: Now, then, you will tell that fallen one,
 That still his son is with the living joined.
 № 38 **A**nd if just now, in answering, I was dumb,
 Tell him I did it because I was thinking
 Already of the error you have solved me.
 № 39 **A**nd now my Master was recalling me,
 Wherefore more eagerly I prayed the spirit
 That he would tell me who was with him there.



Inferno
X

Infr. 10
Cant. 10

№ 40 **H**e said: With more than a thousand here I lie;
 Within here is the second Frederick,
 And the Cardinal, and of the rest I speak not.
 № 41 **T**hereon he hid himself; and I towards
 05 The ancient poet turned my steps, reflecting
 Upon that saying, which seemed hostile to me.
 № 42 **H**e moved along; and afterward thus going,
 He said to me, Why art thou so bewildered?
 And I in his inquiry satisfied him.
 10 № 43 **L**et memory preserve what thou hast heard
 Against thyself, that Sage commanded me,
 And now attend here; and he raised his finger.
 № 44 **W**hen thou shalt be before the radiance sweet
 15 Of her whose beauteous eyes all things behold,
 From her thou'lt know the journey of thy life.
 № 45 **U**nto the left hand then he turned his feet;
 We left the wall, and went towards the middle,
 Along a path that strikes into a valley.
 № 46 **W**hich even up there unpleasant made its stench.
 20

CANTO XI

25 № 01 **U**pon the margin of a lofty bank
 Which great rocks broken in a circle made,
 We came upon a still more cruel throng;
 № 02 **A**nd there, by reason of the horrible
 Excess of stench the deep abyss throws out,
 30 We drew ourselves aside behind the cover
 Of a great tomb, whereon I saw a writing,
 Which said: Hope Anastasius I hold,
 Whom out of the right way Photinus drew.
 № 04 **S**low it behooveth our descent to be,
 35 So that the sense be first a little used
 To the sad blast, and then we shall not heed it.
 № 05 **T**he Master thus; and unto him I said,
 Some compensation find, that the time pass not
 Vdly; and he: Thou seest I think of that.
 40 № 06 **M**y son, upon the inside of these rocks,
 Began he then to say, are three small circles,
 From grade to grade, like those which thou art leaving.
 № 07 **T**hey all are full of spirits maledict;
 45 But that hereafter sight alone suffice thee,
 Hear how and wherefore they are in constraint.
 № 08 **O**f every malice that wins hate in Heaven,
 Injury is the end; and all such end
 Either by force or fraud afflicteth others.
 № 09 **B**ut because fraud is man's peculiar vice,
 50 More it displeases God; and so stand lowest
 The fraudulent, and greater dole assails them.
 № 10 **A**ll the first circle of the Violent is;
 But since force may be used against three persons,
 In three rounds 'tis divided and constructed.
 55 № 11 **T**o God, to ourselves, and to our neighbour can we
 Use force; I say on them and on their things,
 As thou shalt hear with reason manifest.
 № 12 **A** death by violence, and painful wounds,
 60 Are to our neighbour given; and in his substance
 Ruin, and arson, and injurious levies;
 № 13 **W**hence homicides, and he who smites unjustly,
 Marauders, and freebooters, the first round
 Tormenteth all in companies diverse.
 № 14 **M**an may lay violent hands upon himself
 65 And his own goods; and therefore in the second
 Round must perforce without avail repent
 Whoever of your world deprives himself,
 Who games, and dissipates his property,
 And weepeth there, where he should wound be.

№ 16 **V**iolente can be done the Deity,
 In heart denying and blaspheming Him,
 And by disdaining Nature and her bounty.
 № 17 **A**nd for this reason doth the smallest round
 05 Seal with its signet Sodom and Cahors,
 And who, disdaining God, speaks from the heart.
 № 18 **F**raud, wherewithal is every conscience stung,
 A man may practise upon him who trusts,
 And him who doth no confidence imburse.
 10 № 19 **T**his latter mode, it would appear, dissevers
 Only the bond of love which Nature makes;
 Wherefore within the second circle nestle
 № 20 **H**ypocrisy, flattery, and who deals in magic,
 15 Falsification, theft, and simony,
 Flatters, and barrators, and the like filth.
 № 21 **B**y the other mode, forgotten is that love
 Which Nature makes, and what is after added,
 From which there is a special faith engendered.
 № 22 **H**ence in the smallest circle, where the point is
 20 Of the Universe, upon which Dis is seated,
 Who'er betrays for ever is consumed.
 № 23 **A**nd I: My Master, clear enough proceeds
 Thy reasoning, and full well distinguishes
 This cavern and the people who possess it.
 25 № 24 **B**ut tell me, those within the fat lagoon,
 Whom the wind drives, and whom the rain doth beat,
 And who encounter with such bitter tongues,
 № 25 **W**herefore are they inside of the red city
 Not punished, if God has them in his wrath,
 30 And if he has not, wherefore in such fashion?
 № 26 **A**nd unto me he said: Why wanders so
 Thine intellect from that which it is wont?
 Or, sooth, thy mind where is it elsewhere looking?
 № 27 **H**ast thou no recollection of those words
 35 With which thine Ethics thoroughly discusses
 The dispositions three, that Heaven abides not,
 № 28 **I**ncontinence, and Malice, and insane
 Bestiality; and how Incontinence
 Less God offendeth, and less blame attracts?
 40 № 29 **I**f thou regardest this conclusion well,
 And to thy mind recallest who they are
 That up outside are undergoing penance,
 № 30 **C**learly wilt thou perceive why from these felons
 They separated are, and why less wrath
 45 Justice divine doth smite them with its hammer.
 № 31 **O** Sin, that heaviest all dis tempered vision,
 Thou dost content me so, when thou resolvest,
 That doubting pleases me no less than knowing!
 № 32 **O**nce more a little backward turn thee, said I,
 50 There where thou sapest that usury offends
 Goodness divine, and disengage the knot.
 № 33 **P**hilosophy, he said, to him who heeds it,
 Noteth, not only in one place alone,
 After what manner Nature takes her course
 55 № 34 **F**rom Intellect divine, and from its art;
 And if thy Physics carefully thou notest,
 After not many pages shalt thou find,
 № 35 **T**hat this pour art as far as possible
 60 Follows, as the disciple doth the master;
 So that pour art is, as it were, God's grandchild.
 № 36 **F**rom these two, if thou bringest to thy mind
 Genesis at the beginning, it behooves
 Rankind to gain their life and to advance;
 № 37 **A**nd since the usurer takes another way,
 65 Nature herself and in her follower
 Disdains he, for elsewhere he puts his hope.
 But follow, now, as I would fain go on,
 For quivering are the Fishes on the horizon,
 And the Wain wholly over Caucasus lies,



№ 39 **A** And far beyond there we descend the crag.

A

05

CANTO XII

№ 01 **T** The place where to descend the bank we came
Was alpine, and from what was there, moreover,
Of such a kind that every eye would shun it.

10

№ 02

S Such as that ruin is which in the flank
Smote, on this side of Trent, the Adige,
Either by earthquake or by falling stay.

№ 03 **F** For from the mountain's top, from which it moved,
Unto the plain the cliff is shattered so,
Some path 'twould give to him who was above;

15

№ 04 **E** Even such was the descent of that ruine,
And on the border of the broken chasm
The infamy of Crete was stretched along.

№ 05

W Who was conceived in the fictitious cow;
And when he us beheld, he bit himself,
Even as one whom anger racks within.

20

№ 06 **M** My Sage towards him shouted: Peradventure
Thou think'st that here may be the Duke of Athens,
Who in the world above brought death to thee?

25

№ 07

E Get thee gone, beast, for this one cometh not
Instructed by thy sister, but he comes
In order to behold your punishments.

№ 08 **A** As is that bull who breaks loose at the moment
In which he has received the mortal blow,
Who cannot walk, but staggers here and there,

30

№ 09 **T** The Minotaur beheld I do the like;
And he, the wary, cried: Run to the passage;
While he wroth, 'tis well thou shouldst descend.

№ 10

T Thus down we took our way o'er that discharge
Of stones, which oftentimes did move themselves
Beneath my feet, from the unwanted burden.

35

№ 11 **T** Thoughtful I went; and he said: Thou art thinking
Perhaps upon this ruin, which is guarded
By that brute anger which just now I quenched.

40

№ 12 **N** How will I have thee know, the other time
I here descended to the nether Hell,
This precipice had not yet fallen down.

№ 13

B But truly, if I well discern, a little
Before this coming who the mighty spoil
Wore off from Dis, in the supernal circle,

45

№ 14 **U** Upon all sides the deep and loathsome valley
Trembled so, that I thought the Universe
Was thrilled with love, by which there are who think

№ 15

T The world oftimes converted into chaos;
And at that moment this primeval crag
Both here and elsewhere made such overthrow.

50

№ 16 **B** But fix thine eyes below; for draweth near
The river of blood, within which boiling is
Who'er by violence both injure others.

55

№ 17 **O** blind cupidit, O wrath insane,
That spurs us onward so in our short life,
And in the eternal thou so badly steeps us!

№ 18

I I saw an ample moat bent like a bow,
As one which all the plain encompasses,
Conformable to what my Guide had said.

60

№ 19 **A** And between this and the embankment's foot
Centuars in file were running, armed with arrows,
As in the world they used the chase to follow.

№ 20

B Beholding us descend, each one stood still,
And from the squadron three detached themselves,
With bows and arrows in advance selected;

65

№ 21 **A** And from afar one cried: Unto what torment
Come ye, who down the hillside are descending?
Tell us from there; if not, I draw the bow.

№ 22 **M** My Master said: Our answer will we make
To Chiron, near you there; in evil hour,
That will of thine was evermore so hasty.

№ 23

T Then touched he me, and said: This one is Nessus,
Who perished for the lovely Dejanira,
And for himself, himself did vengeance take.

№ 24

A And he in the midst, who at his breast is gazing,
Is the great Chiron, who brought up Achilles;
That other Pholus is, who was so wrathful.

10

№ 25 **T** Thousands and thousands go about the moat
Shooting with shafts whatever soul emerges
Out of the blood, more than his crime allows.

№ 26

N Near we approached unto those monsters fleet;
Chiron an arrow took, and with the notch
Backward upon his jaws he put his beard.

15

№ 27 **A** After he had uncovered his great mouth,
He said to his companions: Are you ware
That he behind moeth whate'er he touches?

№ 28

T Thus are not wont to do the feet of dead men,
And my good Guide, who now was at his breast,
Where the two natures are together joined,

20

№ 29 **R** Replied: Indeed he lives, and thus alone
Me it behoves to show him the back valley;
Necessity, and not delight, impels us.

25

№ 30 **S** Some one withdrew from singing Halleluja,
Who unto me committed this new office;
No thief is he, nor I a thievish spirit.

№ 31

B But by that virtue through which I am moving
My steps along this savage thoroughfare,
Give us some one of thine, to be with us,

30

№ 32 **A** And who may show us where to pass the ford,
And who may carry this one on his back;
For 'tis no spirit that can walk the air.

№ 33

U Upon his right breast Chiron wheeled about,
And said to Nessus: Turn and do thou guide them,
And warn aside, if other hand may meet you.

35

№ 34 **W** We with our faithful escort onward moved
Along the brink of the vermilion boiling,
Wherein the boiled were uttering loud laments.

40

№ 35 **P** People I saw within up to the eyebrows,
And the great Centaur said: Tyrants are these,
Who dealt in bloodshed and in pillaging.

№ 36

H Here they lament their pitiless mischiefs; here
Is Alexander, and fierce Dionysius
Who upon Sicily brought dolorous years.

45

№ 37 **T** That forehead there which has the hair so black
Is Holois; and the other who is blond,
Obizzo is of Esti, who, in truth,

№ 38

U Alp in the world was by his stepson slain.
Then turned I to the Poet; and he said,
How he be first to thee, and second I.

50

№ 39 **A** A little farther on the Centaur stopped
Above a folk, who far down as the throat
Seemed from that boiling stream to issue forth.

55

№ 40 **A** A shade he showed us on one side alone,
Saying: He drest asunder in God's bosom
The heart that still upon the Thames is honoured.

№ 41

T Then people saw I, who from out the river
Lifted their heads and also all the chest;
And many among these I recognised.

60

№ 42 **T** Thus ever more and more grew shallower
That blood, so that the feet alone it covered;
And there across the moat our passage was.

№ 43

E Even as thou here upon this side beholdest
The boiling stream, that ape diminishes,
The Centaur said, I wish thee to believe

65

№ 44 **T** That on this other more and more declines
His bed, until it reunites itself
Where it becometh tyranny to groan.



№ 45 Justice divine, upon this side, is goading
 That Attila, who was a scourge on earth,
 And Pyrrhus, and Sextus; and for ever milks
 № 46 The tears which with the boiling it unscals
 In Rincer da Corneto and Rincer Pazzo,
 Who made upon the highways so much war.
 № 47 Then back he turned, and passed again the ford.

CANTO XIII

№ 01 Not yet had Nessus reached the other side,
 When we had put ourselves within a wood,
 That was not marked by any path whatever.
 № 02 Not foliage green, but of a dusky colour,
 Not branches smooth, but gnarled and intertangled,
 Not apple-trees were there, but thorns with poison.
 № 03 Such tangled thickets have not, nor so dense,
 Those savage wild beasts, that in barred fold
 Twixt Cerina and Corneto the filled places.
 № 04 There do the hideous Harpies make their nests,
 Who chased the Trojans from the Strophades,
 With sad announcement of impending doom;
 № 05 Broad wings have they, and necks and faces human,
 And feet with claws, and their great bellies sledged;
 They make laments upon the wondrous trees.
 № 06 And the good Master: Ere thou enter farther,
 Know that thou art within the second round,
 Thus he began to say, and shalt be, till
 № 07 Thou comest out upon the horrible sand;
 Therefore look well around, and thou shalt see
 Things that will credence give unto my speech.
 № 08 I heard on all sides lamentations uttered,
 And person none beheld I who might make them,
 Whence, utterly bewildered, I stood still.
 № 09 I think he thought that I perhaps might think
 So many voices issued through those trunks
 From people who concealed themselves from us;
 № 10 Therefore the Master said: If thou break off
 Some little spray from any of these trees,
 The thoughts thou hast will wholly be made vain.
 № 11 Then stretched I forth my hand a little forward,
 And plucked a branchlet off from a great thorn;
 And the trunk cried, Why dost thou mangle me?
 № 12 After it had become embrowned with blood,
 It recommenced its cry: Why dost thou rend me?
 Hast thou no spirit of pity whatsoever?
 № 13 Men once we were, and now are changed to trees;
 Indeed, thy hand should be more pitiful,
 Even if the souls of serpents we had been.
 № 14 As out of a green brand, that is on fire
 At one of the ends, and from the other drips
 And hisses with the wind that is escaping;
 № 15 So from that splinter issued forth together
 Both words and blood; whereat I let the tip
 Fall, and stood like a man who is afraid.
 № 16 Had he been able sooner to believe,
 My Sage made answer, O thou wounded soul,
 What only in my verses he has seen,
 № 17 Not upon thee had he stretched forth his hand;
 Whereas the thing incredible has caused me
 To put him to an act which grieves me.
 № 18 But tell him who thou wast, so that by way
 Of some amends thy fame he may refresh
 Up in the world, to which he can return.
 № 19 And the trunk said: So thy sweet words allure me,
 I cannot silent be; and you be vexed not,
 That I a little to discourse am tempted.

№ 20 I am the one who both kepts had in keeping
 Of Frederick's heart, and turned them to and fro
 So softly in unloaking and in locking.
 № 21 That from his secrets most men I withheld;
 Fidelity I bore the glorious office
 So great, I lost thereby my sleep and pulses.
 № 22 The courtesan who never from the dwelling
 Of Caesar turned aside her strumpet eyes,
 Death universal and the vice of courts,
 № 23 Inflamed against me all the other minds,
 And they, inflamed, did so inflame Augustus,
 That my glad honours turned to dismal mournings.
 № 24 My spirit, in disdainful exultation,
 Thinking by dying to escape disdain,
 Made me unjust against myself, the just.
 № 25 I, by the roots unmounted of this wood,
 Do swear to you that never broke I faith
 Unto my lord, who was so worthy of honour;
 And to the world if one of you return,
 № 26 Let him my memory comfort, which is lying
 Still prostrate from the blow that envy dealt it.
 Waited awhile, and then: Since he is silent,
 № 27 The Poet said to me, lose not the time,
 But speak, and question him, if more may please thee.
 Whence I to him: Do thou again inquire
 № 28 Concerning what thou thinks't will satisfy me;
 For I cannot, such pity is in my heart.
 Therefore he recommended: So may the man
 № 29 Do for thee freely what thy speech implores,
 Spirit incarcerated, again be pleased
 № 30 To tell us in what way the soul is bound
 Within these knots; and tell us, if thou canst,
 If any from such members e'er is freed.
 № 31 Then blew the trunk amain, and afterward
 The wind was into such a voice converted:
 With brevity shall be replied to you.
 № 32 When the exasperated soul abandons
 The body whence it rent itself away,
 Minos consigns it to the seventh abyss.
 № 33 It falls into the forest, and no part
 Is chosen for it; but where Fortune hurls it,
 There like a grain of spelt it germinates.
 № 34 It springs a sapling, and a forest tree;
 The Harpies, feeding then upon its leaves,
 № 35 Do pain create, and for the pain an outlet.
 Like others for our spoils shall we return;
 But not that any one may them redest,
 For 'tis not just to have what one casts off.
 № 36 Here we shall drag them, and along the dismal
 Forest our bodies shall suspended be,
 Each to the thorn of his molested shade.
 № 37 We were attentive still unto the trunk,
 Thinking that more it yet might wish to tell us,
 When by a tumult we were overtaken,
 № 38 In the same way as he is who perceives
 The boar and chase approaching to his stand,
 Who hears the crashing of the beasts and branches;
 № 39 And two beheld! upon our left-hand side,
 Flaked and scratched, fleeing so furiously,
 That of the forest, every fan they broke.
 № 40 He who was in advance: Now help, Death, help!
 And the other one, who seemed to lag too much,
 Was shouting: Lano, were not so alert
 № 41 Those legs of thine at joustings of the Toppo!
 And then, perchance because his breath was failing,
 He grouped himself together with a bush,
 № 42 Behind him was the forest full of black
 She-mastiffs, ravenous, and swift of foot
 As greyhounds, who are issuing from the chain.



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2333

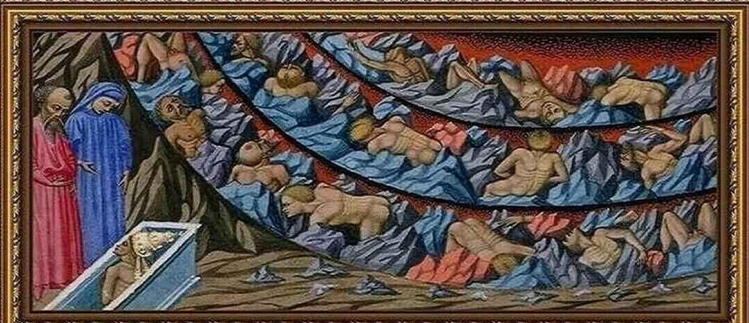
Infr. 13
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№ 43 **O**n him who had crouched down they set their teeth,
 And him they lacerated piece by piece.
 Thereafter bore away those aching members.
 05 № 44 **T**hereat my Escort took me by the hand,
 And led me to the bush, that all in vain
 Was weeping from its bloody lacerations.
 № 45 **O** Jacopo, it said, of Sant' Andrea,
 What helped it thee of me to make a screen?
 What blame have I in thy nefarious life?
 10 № 46 **W**hen near him had the Master staped his steps,
 He said: Who wast thou, that through wounds so many
 Art blowing out with blood thy dolorous speech?
 № 47 **A**nd he to us: O souls, that hither come
 To look upon the shameful massacre,
 15 № 48 **E**ather them up beneath the dismal bush;
 I of that city was which to the Baptist
 Changed its first patron, wherefore he for this
 № 49 **F**orever with his art will make it sad.
 20 And were it not that on the pass of Atrio
 Some glimpses of him are remaining still,
 № 50 **T**hose citizens, who afterwards rebuilt it
 Upon the ashes left by Atrila,
 25 № 51 **I**n vain had caused their labour to be done.
 Of my own house I made myself a gibbet.

CANTO XIV

30 № 01 **B**ecause the charity of my native place
 Constrained me, gathered I the scattered leaves,
 And gave them back to him, who now was hoarse.
 35 № 02 **T**hen came we to the confine, where parted
 The second round is from the third, and where
 A horrible form of Justice is beheld.
 № 03 **E**clearly to manifest these novel things,
 I say that we arrived upon a plain,
 40 № 04 **T**hich from its bed rejecteth every plant;
 The dolorous forest is a garland to it
 All round about, as the sad moat to that;
 There close upon the edge we staped our feet.
 № 05 **T**he soil was of an arid and thick sand,
 45 Not of another fashion made than that
 Which by the feet of Cato once was pressed.
 № 06 **V**engeance of God, O how much oughtest thou
 By each one to be breaded, who doth read
 50 That which was manifest unto mine eyes!
 Of naked souls beheld I many herds,
 Who all were weeping very miserably,
 And over them seemed set a law diverse.
 № 08 **S**upine upon the ground some folk were lying;
 And some were sitting all drawn up together,
 55 № 09 **T**hose who were going round were far the more,
 And those were less who lay down to their torment,
 But had their tongues more loosed to lamentation.
 № 10 **O**'er all the sand-waste, with a gradual fall,
 60 Were raining down dilated flakes of fire,
 As of the snow on Alp without a wind.
 № 11 **A**s Alexander, in those torrid parts
 Of India, beheld upon his host
 65 Flames fall unbroken till they reached the ground.
 Whence he provided with his phalanxes
 To trample down the soil, because the vapour
 Better extinguished was while it was single;
 № 13 **T**hus was descending the eternal heat,
 Whereby the sand was set on fire, like tinder
 Beneath the steel, for doubling of the dole.

№ 14 **W**ithout repose forever was the dance
 Of miserable hands, now there, now here,
 Shaking away from off them the fresh gleeds.
 05 № 15 **M**aster, began I, thou who overcomest
 All things except the demons dire, that issued
 Against us at the entrance of the gate,
 № 16 **W**ho is that mighty one who seems to heed not
 The fire, and lieth lowering and disdainful,
 10 № 17 **A**nd he himself, who had become aware
 That I was questioning my Guide about him,
 Cried: Such as I was living, am I, dead.
 № 18 **I**f Jove should weary out his smith, from whom
 He seized in anger the sharp thunderbolt,
 15 Wherewith upon the last day I was smitten,
 And if he wearied out by turns the others
 In Mongibello at the swarthy forge,
 20 **H**elp, good Vulcan, help!
 Even as he did there at the fight of Phlegra,
 And shot his bolts at me with all his might,
 He would not have thereby a wondrous vengeance.
 25 № 21 **T**hen did my Leader speak with such great force,
 That I had never heard him speak so loud:
 O Capaneus, in that is not extinguished
 30 **T**hine arrogance, thou punished art the more;
 Not any torment, saving thine own rage,
 Would be unto thy fury pain complete.
 № 23 **T**hen he turned round to me with better lip,
 35 **S**aying: One of the Seven Kings was he
 Who Thebes besieged, and held, and seems to hold
 God in disdain, and little seems to prize him;
 40 № 24 **G**od, in disdain, and little seems to prize him;
 But, as I said to him, his own despites
 Are for his breast the fittest ornaments.
 № 25 **N**ow follow me, and mind thou do not place
 45 As yet thy feet upon the burning sand,
 But always keep them close unto the wood.
 № 26 **S**peaking no word, we came to where these gushes
 Forth from the wood a little rivulet,
 50 Whose redness makes my hair still stand on end.
 As from the Bullicame springs the brooklet,
 55 № 27 **A**s the sinful women later share among them,
 So downward through the sand it went its way.
 The bottom of it, and both sloping banks,
 60 № 28 **T**he bottom of it, and both sloping banks,
 Were made of stone, and the margins at the side;
 Whence I perceived that there the passage was.
 65 № 29 **I**n all the rest which I have shown to thee
 Since we have entered in within the gate
 Whose threshold unto no one is denied,
 70 Nothing has been discovered by thine eyes
 So notable as is the present river,
 Which all the little flames above it quenches.
 № 31 **T**hese words were of my Leader; whence I prayed him
 That he would give me largess of the food,
 75 № 32 **I**n the mid-sea there sits a wasted land,
 Said he thereafter, whose name is Crete,
 Elder whose king the word of old was chaste.
 80 № 33 **T**here is a mountain there, that once was glad
 With waters and with leaves, which was called Ida;
 Now 'tis deserted, as a thing worn out.
 85 № 34 **R**hea once chose it for the faithful cradle
 Of her own son; and to conceal him better,
 Whene'er he cried, she there had clamours made.
 90 № 35 **A** grand old man stands in the mount erect,
 Who holds his shoulders turned towards Damiatta,
 And looks at Rome as if it were his mirror.
 95 № 36 **H**is head is fashioned of refined gold,
 And of pure silver are the arms and breast;
 Then he is brass as far down as the fork.



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XIV

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