

The Poetry of Dante's Paradiso

Jeremy Tambling

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Lives Almost Divine, Spirits that Matter

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PREFACE AND A NOTE ON THE TEXT

I began research for this book—which as it is intended as a close reading of a text will benefit most from being read alongside a copy of *Paradiso*—when on holiday in Lodève in 2010. After publication of my book *Dante in Purgatory: States of Affect* (Brepols, 2010), which itself was started in 2003 on holiday in Pernes-les-Fontaines, I began earnest work by reading the canto-by-canto commentaries on *Paradiso* edited by Allen Mandelbaum, and following that with the Tibor Wlassics introductory readings to *Paradiso* (University of Virginia Press, 1995). Both these volumes, and their authors therein, and Robert Hollander’s edition of *Paradiso* (2007), were invaluable starters. But this book is less a sequel to work on *Purgatorio* than new ideas coupled with thinking about *Paradiso* which go back to my doctorate, and my book *Dante and Difference: Writing in the Commedia* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), and to work which has appeared since in journals.

Thus, material on cantos 8 and 9 greatly revises and develops a paper: ‘The Violence of Venus: Dante in *Paradiso*’ (*Romanic Review* 90 (2000), 93–114), while a draft of material on canto 11 appeared as ‘Dante and St Francis: Shaping Lives: Reshaping Allegory’ in Walter S. Melion and Bart Ramakers (eds.), *Personification: Embodying Meaning and Emotion* (Leiden: Brill, 2016, 73–94). I am grateful for permission to reprint. Further, I wrote before on cantos 21 and 22 in ‘Getting Above the Thunder: Dante in the Sphere of Saturn’ *MLR* 90 (1995), 632–645, and incorporated some of it into my *Dante in Purgatory*. An unpublished draft of material on canto 6 was given to a Medieval and Renaissance Literature

seminar at Queen Mary University, November 2012; thanks to Adrian Armstrong for organising that. An early draft of some of canto 10 appeared in an unpublished paper for a conference on Isidore of Seville in Manchester University, 2012, and part of material which appears here on canto 33 was delivered at a conference on ‘Forgotten Books’ at National Taipei University of Technology, Taiwan, May 2016. An early version of the work on the Cacciaguida cantos was read to the Oxford Dante Society on 9 November 2016, and I am grateful to Nick Havely for arranging this and to the Society for hosting me. Material relevant to canto 9 was read to a seminar at King’s College London in 2018 and I am grateful to Michael Silk for arranging that. Two papers given at St Andrews, on *Purgatorio* 4, and *Convivio* 3, stimulated my interest in Dante’s astronomy: thanks to Robert Wilson and Claudia Rossignoli for the invitations. While writing, I turned some undergraduate lectures into a book, *Histories of the Devil* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), and much thinking for that book has gone indirectly into this.

Thanks to Peter Such, whose edition of the *Poema de mio Cid* stimulated interest in Dante and Spain. I thank him and Rich Rabone for letting me see their translation of the *Poema de Fernán González* in manuscript and for discussion of medieval Spain. During writing, I recall a good conversation with Patrick Boyde. Thanks are due to Dennis Walder for encouragement; to Spencer Pearce, Priscilla Martin, Terry Bird, Peter Crickmore, John Pickering, David Wells, and Louis Lo, for conversations and especially for doing the diagram; and to Jo Rose, for ‘mastering’ everything as it’s called, to do with the manuscript.

I could not have written this book at all without consistent encouragement and loving support from Pauline. Any dedication must go to her. The book was finished in a week when Emil, a second grandchild, was born; he joins Kirsten and Simon, Frances, and Felix, as part of a circle which makes this writing an act of hope as much as an attempt at scholarship.

A note on Bibliographies: Dante has received so much attention that it is not possible to keep abreast. I have referenced work which I have used; Bibliographies add other work consulted, but not necessarily mentioned in the text or notes.

Jeremy Tambling

ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES

Dante's *Commedia* comprises three *cantiche*—that is, *Inferno* (*Inf.*), *Purgatorio* (*Purg.*), and *Paradiso* (*Para.*). Quotations, by canto and line numbers (e.g. *Para.* 20.13), come from the three-volume edition of Anna Maria Chiavacci Leonardi (Bologna: Zanichelli, 1999–2001).

Equally useful, and cited are:

Bosco/Reggio—the three volumes edited by Umberto Bosco and Giovanni Reggio (Florence: Le Monnier, 1979)

Sapegno—the three volumes edited by Natalino Sapegno (Florence: La Nuova Italia, 1968).

It is to be assumed that reference to the name is to the relevant passage of the poem being discussed.

Dante's minor works are cited from the *Opere minori*, 2 vols, ed. Domenico de Robertis, Gianfranco Contini, and Cesare Vasoli (Milan: Ricciardi, 1979). Here appear references to *VN* (i.e. *Vita Nuova*), *Con.* (*Convivio*), *DVE* (*De Vulgari Eloquentia*), and *Mon.* (*Monarchia*)

Other editions of Dante referred to by abbreviations are as follows:

Frisnardi—*Convivio* trans. Andrew Frisnardi (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).

Durling and Martinez—*The Divine Comedy* trans. Robert M. Durling and Ronald L. Martinez.

Inferno (1996), *Purgatorio* (2003), *Paradiso* (2011) (Oxford: Oxford University Press)

Hollander—*Paradiso* edited and translated by Robert Hollander and Jean Hollander (New York: Doubleday, 2007).

- Kay—*Monarchia* trans. Richard Kay (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 1998).
- Lansing—*Convivio* trans. Richard Lansing (New York: Garland, 1990).
- Rime—Kenelm Foster and Patrick Boyde, *Dante's Lyric Poetry* 2 vols (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967).
- Pharsalia*—Lucan, *Civil War* trans. Susan H. Braund (Oxford: O.U.P., 1992).
- Ryan—*Dante's The Banquet* ed. Michael Ryan (Saratoga: CA: ANMA Libri, 1989).
- Reynolds and Sayers—*Hell and Purgatory* trans. and ed. Dorothy Sayers, and *Paradise* trans.
- Dorothy Sayers and Barbara Reynolds, and ed. Barbara Reynolds (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1949–1962).
- Shaw, *Monarchia* trans. Prue Shaw (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).
- Toynbee—Dante, *Dantis Alagherii Epistolae* ed. Paget Toynbee, 2nd edition ed. Colin Hardie (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1966).
- Shapiro—*De Vulgari Eloquentia: Dante's Book of Exile* trans. Marianne Shapiro (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990).
- Singleton—*Commedia* ed. and trans. Charles Singleton (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1970–1975).
- Translations from Italian are mine but with much dependence upon editions given above which show on every page.

Other authors and titles:

- Aquinas—Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologia* 9: Angels. trans. Kenelm Foster (London: Eyre and Spottiswoode 1963).
- Boethius—Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* in *The Theological Tractates* trans. S.J. Tester (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1973).
- City—Augustine, *City of God*—trans. Henry Bettenson (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972). Quoted by book and chapter.
- Confessions*—Henry Chadwick, trans. *Augustine: Confessions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991).
- De Anima*—Aristotle, *De Anima*, trans. Hugh Lawson-Tancred (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1986).
- ED—*Enciclopedia Dantesca* ed. Umberto Bosco, 6 vols. (Roma: Istituto della enciclopedia italiana, 1984).
- DS—*Dante Studies*

- GL*—Jacobus de Voragine, *The Golden Legend: Readings on the Saints*, trans. William Granger Ryan, 2 vols (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993).
- Heroides*—Ovid, *Heroides* trans. Grant Showerman rev. G.P. Goold (Cambridge Mass.: Harvard U.P., 1977).
- Lansing—Richard Lansing, *Dante Encyclopaedia* (New York: Garland, 2000).
- Life*—Stephen Bemrose, Stephen, *A New Life of Dante* (Exeter: Exeter U.P., 2009).
- Metaphysics*—Aristotle, *The Metaphysics*, trans. Hugh Lawson-Tancred (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2004).
- Met.*—Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, trans. Frank Justus Miller and G.P. Goold (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1977).
- Fausti*—Ovid, *Fausti* trans. J.G. Frazer, rev. J.G. Goold (London: Heinemann, 1966).
- Ars Amatoria*—Ovid, *The Art of Love and Other Poems* trans. J. H. Mozley (London: Heinemann, 1959).
- Heroide*—Ovid, *Heroides and Amores* trans., Grant Showerman (London: Heinemann, 1971)
- Plotinus—Plotinus, *The Enneads*, trans. Stephen MacKenna, introduction by John Dillon (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1991).
- Physics*—Aristotle, *Physics* trans. Robin Waterfield, Oxford: O.U.P., 1996.
- Timaeus*—Plato, *Timaeus and Critias*, trans. Robin Waterfield (Oxford: O.U.P., 2008).
- Virgil, *Virgil*, 2 vols, Loeb Classical Library trans. by H. Ruston Fairclough revised G.P. Goold (London: Heinemann, 1967).

Quotations from the Bible come from the King James (1611) version, sometimes corrected from the Revised (1881) version.

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