

INFERNO Cantos I - IX



Per me si va nella città dolente (III-1-9)
Per me si va nell' eterno dolore
Per me si va tra la perduta gente.

Through me the way into the woeful city,
Through me the way to the eternal pain,
Through me the way among the lost people

Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch' intrate
Leave behind all hope, you who enter

FIRST LINES

Odyssey

ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, μοῦσα, πολύτροπον,

Tell me, Muse, of the man of many ways who was driven far journeys, after he had sacked Troy's secret citadel. Many were they whose cities he saw, whose minds he learned of, many the pains he suffered on his spirit on the wide sea, struggling for his own life and the homecoming of his companions.

Iliad

Μῆνιν ἄειδε θεὰ Πηληϊάδεω Ἀχιλῆος

The wrath sing, goddess, of Peleus' son, Achilles, that destructive wrath which brought countless woes upon the Achaeans, and sent forth to Hades many valiant souls of heroes, and made them themselves spoil for dogs and every bird;

Aeneid

Arma virumque cano

Arms and the man I sing, who first from the coasts of Troy, exiled by fate, came to Italy and Lavine shores; he was tossed much both on land and on sea, by the power of the gods, on account of the mindful anger of savage Juno, he having suffered many (things) and also from war, until he could found a city,

*Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita
mi ritrovai per una selva oscura
che la diritta via era smarrita*

In the middle of the journey of our life
I came to myself in a dark wood
where the straight way was lost.

LINES FOR DISCUSSION

Canto I

Dark Wood, Three Beasts, Virgil

Non omo, omo già fui (l. 67)
Not man, though man I once was.

Tu se' lo mio maestro e 'l mio autore (l.85)
You are my master and my author

A te convien tenere altro viaggio (l. 89)
You must take another road

*Alle qua' poi se tu vorrai salire, (l. 121)
anima fia a ciò piu di me degna.
con lei ti lascerò nel mio partire*

For that if you would wish to ascend
there shall be a spirit fitter than I,
with her I shall leave you at my parting.

Canto II

Self Doubt, Beatrice

Io non Enëa, io non Paolo son (ll.32)
I am not Aeneas, I am not Paul.

E qual è quei disvuol ciò che volle (ll.37)
As one who unwills what he wills

*I son Beatrice the ti faccio andare, (l.70- 73)
vengo del loco ove tornar disio,
amor mi mosse, che mi fa parlare.*

I am Beatrice who bid you go.
I come from the place where I desire to return.
Love moved me and makes me speak.

Quali i fioretti, dal notturno gelo (ll. 127)
As the little flowers in the chill of night

LINES FOR DISCUSSION 2

Canto III

Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch' intrate III.9
Leave behind all hope, you who enter

che visser senza 'nfamia e senza lodo III.36
those who lived without shame and without honor

non ragioniam di lor, ma guarda e passa III.51
let's not talk about them, just look and move on

Canto IV

che senza speme vivemo in disio IV.42
that without hope we live in desire

si ch' io fui sesto tra cotanto senno IV.102
so that I was sixth among such intellect

vidi 'l maestro di color che sanno IV. 131
I saw the master of those who know

Canto V

Amor condusse noi ad una morte V. 106
Love brought us to one death

Galeotto fu 'libro e che lo scrisse: V. 137-138
quel giorno piu' non vi leggemmo avante
a Gallehaut was the book and he who wrote it;
that day we read no more of it

E caddi come corpo morto cade V. 142
And I fell the way a dead body falls.

Canto VI

Voi cittadini me chiamaste Ciacco VI. 52
You Florentines called me Ciacco

<https://www.pbs.org/video/gluttony-kompce/>

LINES FOR DISCUSSION 3

CANTO VII

gridando: "Perché tiene?" e "Perché burli?" VII. 30
[they were] crying out: "Why hoard?" and "Why waste?"

volve sua sfera e beata si gode VII. 96
she turns her sphere and rejoices in her blessedness

Canto VIII

Tutti gridavano: "A Filippo Argenti!" VIII.61
They all yelled out: "Get Filippo Argenti!"

Chi m' ha negate le dolenti case! VIII.120
Who are these to deny me the abodes of pain?

Canto IX

tre furie infernal di sangue tinte, XIV. 38-39
che member femminine avian e atto
three hellish, blood-stained Furies
that had the parts and the bearing of women

sotto 'l velame de li versi strani XIV 63
under the veil of the strange verses