

Purgatory: Canto 30

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Summary

At this point, Dante is progressing to the "next level" in his journey.

Dante sees a woman in green. This woman is Beatrice. Beatrice was mentioned previously, multiple times throughout the text. She was the one that usually was in Dante's dreams helping him along, but he could never see her face. Dante is amazed at finally seeing her after a decade apart. In amazement, he looks for Virgil but finds his guide has disappeared. Beatrice addresses Dante and forces him to a final reckoning of his sins. After her death, she says, Dante "turned his steps to paths that were not true," lapsing into moral and intellectual error. Thus, Beatrice was moved to intercede for him before God and ordain his journey through Hell and Purgatory. When this is completed, Dante can move on to the real Paradise, but only after he has paid the "tax of penitence" by hating his sins.

Characters

Beatrice:

After ten years after her death she greets Dante and he is amazed by her. She was his one true love and her death left him shattered.

Virgil:

Virgil has left, because he cannot enter heaven because at the time of his death people were not saved by Jesus yet. So he had to go back to Hell.

Dante:

Dante is finally realizing the great things about heaven and is trying to complete his journey to eternal paradise.

Stylistic Features

Allusion

When Dante is first led to the “entry way” of Heaven he sees a place and that place is compared to The Garden of Eden in the Bible.

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From Canto 30



Artwork....



Study Questions

1. *What does Beatrice represent throughout his chapter?*
2. *What does Dante feel and think when he sees the “entry way” into heaven?*
3. *Why does Dante get a new guide to guide him through Paradiso?*