

**DANTE'S DIVINA COMMEDIA.  
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, IN  
THE METRE AND TRIPLE RHYME  
OF THE ORIGINAL. WITH NOTES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649758203

Dante's Divina Commedia. Translated into English, in the Metre and Triple Rhyme of the Original. With Notes by Dante Alighieri & Mrs. Ramsay

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**DANTE ALIGHIERI & MRS. RAMSAY**

**DANTE'S DIVINA COMMEDIA.  
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, IN  
THE METRE AND TRIPLE RHYME  
OF THE ORIGINAL. WITH NOTES**



DANTE'S  
DIVINA COMMEDIA.

HC 9.50

DANTE'S  
DIVINA COMMEDIA.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH,

IN THE METRE AND TRIPLE RHYME  
OF THE ORIGINAL.

WITH NOTES.

BY

MRS. RAMSAY.

Purgatorio.

LONDON:  
TINSLEY BROTHERS, 18, CATHERINE ST., STRAND.

1862.

THE  
DIVINE COMEDY OF DANTE.

---

PURGATORIO.

---

CANTO I.



Argument.

Dante, having come forth from the dark cavern, gazes with wonder and delight at the starry sky, and sees for the first time the constellation of the Southern Cross.—Discourse with Cato of Utica, guardian of Purgatory.

Now let my fancy's ship unfurl her sail,  
Her course o'er smoother waters to begin,  
And leave behind her all the sea of wail ;

And of that second kingdom will I sing,  
Where pain each mortal spirit purifies  
Ere it can upward soar on heavenward wing.

Here let my Lay from Death once more arise,  
O Muses, since to you do I belong,

And here Calliopë in tuncful guise

Appear, and bring with her, to aid my song, 10

The selfsame melody which erst they knew

Who mourn, as chattering jays, their hopeless wrong.

The oriental sapphire's lovely hue

That colour'd the pure air, serenely bright,

O'erspreading all the sky with deepest blue, 15

Again unto mine eyes brought back delight ;

Soon as the deathly air I rose above,

The air that grieved my heart and dimm'd my sight.

The beauteous planet, counsellor of love,

Arose and shed o'er all the east her smile, 20

Hiding the Fish that in her escort move.

To the right hand I turn'd, and gazed awhile

At the far pole, and saw four stars, unseen

By man since sin our parents did beguile.

Their radiance gladden'd all the sky, I ween : 25

O region of the Northland, cold and gray,

Since parted from their brightness thou hast been !

I turn'd from gazing at the holy ray ;

A little towards the north my glance was thrown,

There where the Wain but now had pass'd away. 30



I saw anear me an old man alone ;  
 To whom so much of reverence seem'd due,  
 As to a father by his son is shown.

His beard was long, and mix'd with hoary hue,  
 And like unto the flowing locks he wore, 35  
 That, double-falling, both his shoulders strew.

The holy radiance of the starry Four  
 Shed on his forehead such a dazzling beam,  
 It seem'd as though the sun's own light he wore.

"And who are ye that, 'gainst Hell's sluggish stream, 40  
 From the eternal prisonhouse have fled ?"  
 He spake, and shook his hair of silvery gleam ;

"Who is your guide ? and who the light that led  
 Forth from the night of everlasting gloom,  
 That darkens aye the valley of the dead ? 45

Or broken are the laws of final doom ?  
 And is there now new counsel in the sky,  
 That even the damn'd to my abode should come ?"

My Master then made signs with hand and eye,  
 Exhorting me to make obeisance low, 50  
 And to the ancient sage bend rev'rently ;

Then answer'd : "Not at mine own will I go ;

A Bless'd One descended from above,  
To send me as a guide through realms of woe.

But since of our condition thou wouldst prove 55  
The truth still more, I may not say thee nay,  
Nor may my will against thy wishes move.

This man hath never seen the closing day  
Of life ; but in his madness drew so nigh,  
That little time remain'd to turn away. 60

As I have said, a Lady from on high  
Commanded me to aid him ; and no place  
Of flight remain'd, save that we have pass'd by.

And I have show'd him all the wicked race,  
And now would lead him through the spirit throng, 65  
Who 'neath thy guardianship their sins efface.

To tell thee all our journey were too long ;  
Know, from above hath heavenly virtue flow'd,  
That for this enterprise doth make me strong.

Now deign to welcome him to thy abode ; 70  
He goes to seek for liberty :—so dear  
As he who gives his Life for it hath show'd ;

And thou must know it well, who hadst no fear  
Of death in Utica ;—where thou hast shed

The vesture that in glory shall appear 75

At the last day. Heaven's edicts are not made  
In vain for us. This man hath mortal life ;  
And I am of that region of the dead,

Where she, who was on earth thy loving wife,  
Still loves thee in the land of shadowy woe : 80  
For her sake, then, befriend us in our strife.

Let us throughout thy sevenfold kingdom go ;  
To her I will take back a good report,  
If thou wouldst be remember'd there below."

" Marcia to me such gladness did impart 85  
On earth," he said, " that, whatsoe'er she would,  
I did ; so dear was she unto my heart.

Now that she dwells beyond the evil flood,  
She cannot move me more ; by that decree  
Made when my soul forth issued with my blood. 90

If sent by heavenly messenger ye be,  
As thou hast said, no need of flattering speech ;  
Enough that in such name thou askest me.

Go then, descend unto the salt sea beach,  
And gird this wand'rer with the reeds that rise 95  
Beside the wave ; and wash the stains that reach