In this essay, I will closely read lines 100-120 of Canto IV, where Dante is greeted by legendary poets such as Homer, Ovid, Horace and Lucan. They, along with Virgil, invite Dante into their group of five and travel across to view all the famous figures who rest in the first ring. This passage demonstrates the pedestal Dante places himself upon, while also highlighting how Dante values poetry and wisdom.

Firstly, Dante evidently places himself on a pedestal as he describes himself being “show[n] more honor” as they “made [him] one of their company” (Inferno IV, 100-101). Dante surrounding himself with legendary poets such as these demonstrates his

This is a recurring theme throughout the entire work, where Dante continually perpetuates

IV, 94-114

II 70-90

II 32-52