

Paradiso

XXX, XXXII ll. 139-151, XXXIII

18 May 2020

# Announcement:

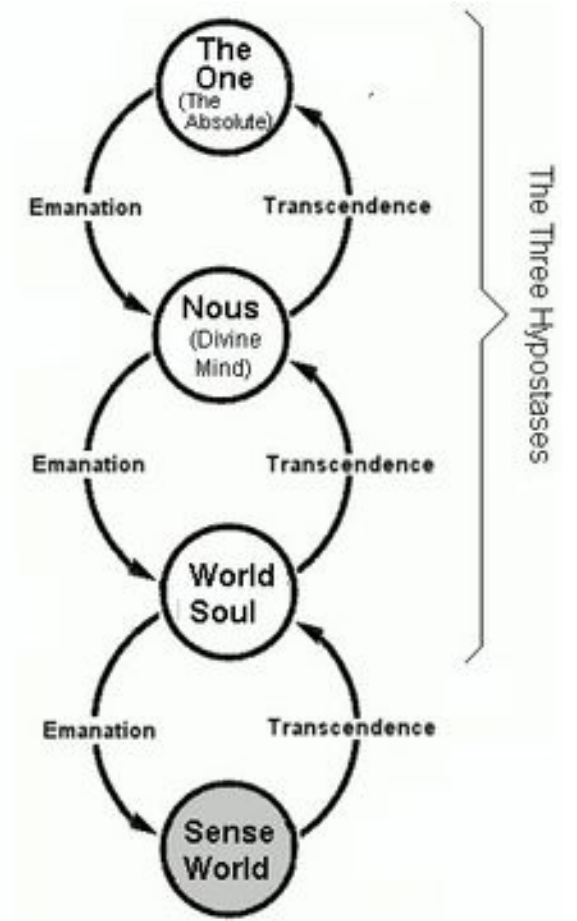
- Read all of "The Aleph" for next week, we will discuss it across two weeks but please have read it all for the first week's discussion.

# Canto XXX - DISCUSSION

- What do you notice as far as themes, symbols, tropes, topos, that we have seen across the *Comedy* and that Dante is wrapping up here?
- With the discussion from last week in mind, what has become of Dante's use of metaphor here?

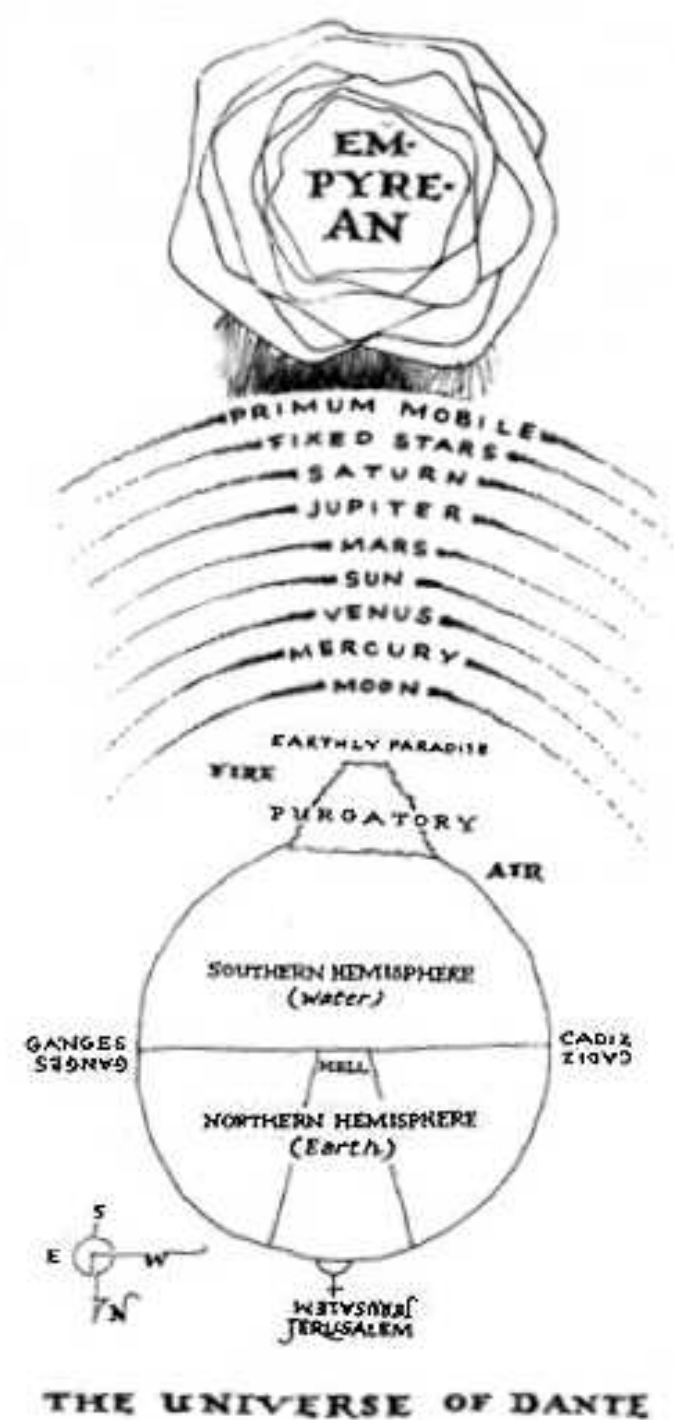
# Canto XXX

- Where are Dante and Beatrice?
  - The Empyrean in ancient cosmologies was ‘the highest heaven’
  - The word derives from the Medieval Latin empyreus, an adaptation of the Ancient Greek empyrus (ἐμπυρος), meaning "in or on the fire (pyr)"
  - ““We have come forth from the / largest body into the Heaven that is pure light: / intellectual light”
    - Par 30: ll. 38-40



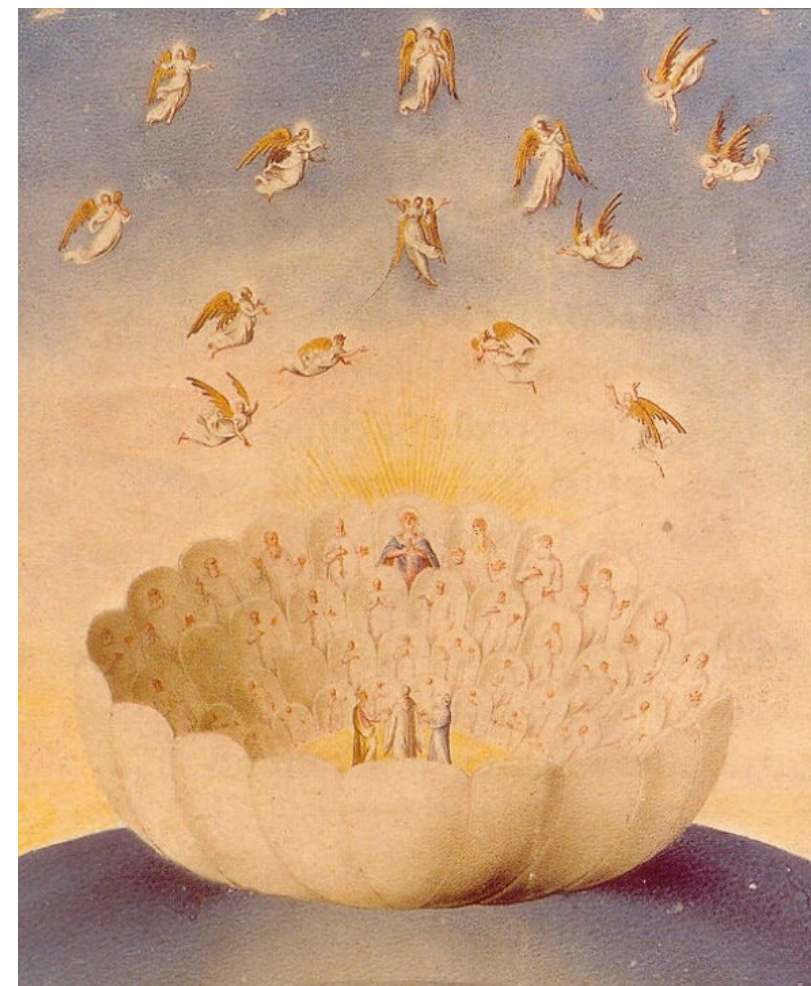
# Canto XXX - DISCUSSION

- In this Canto, how does Dante describe the Empyrean?
- How does he attempt to deal with infinity?



# Canto XXX – The Eternal Rose

- *Roman de la rose*
  - Old French courtly love poem
    - Written by two men (Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun) in two parts, the first in the 1230s and the second in the 1270s
  - The romantic rose symbol in this poem was red, Dante is describing a white and yellow rose
- The structure as, simultaneously, a stadium



# Canto XXXII, ll. 139-151

- Why did I have you read these lines?
- Particularly, what is the deeper implication of the line “because the time is fleeting that holds you asleep” ?

# Roberto Benigni

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLxC56SjxHc>



# Canto XXXIII – CONCLUSION of the poem

- What happens in this Canto?
- What does Dante say the vision is like in his memory?
- Lines 85-87, did they give you pause? What did you make of them?
- Dante attempts to express both the infinite and the ineffable in many ways across this poem and in this canto. What, in your opinion, in this canto (or anywhere in the poem) is his greatest expression of (1) the infinite and (2) the ineffable?

# The Infinite and the Ineffable

- **“One point alone is greater forgetfulness to me than twenty-five centuries to the enterprise that made Neptune marvel at the shadow of the Argo.” Par: 33, l. 94**
- **“like the geometer who is all intent to square the circle and cannot find, for all his thought, the principle he needs.” Par 33, l. 133**

