Godì, Fiorenza, poi che se' sì grande
che per mare e per terra batí l'ali,
e per lo 'nferno tuo nome si spandel!
Tra il ladrón trovai cinque cotali
tuoi cittadini onde mi ven vergogna,
etu in grande orranza non ne sali.
Ma se presso al mattín del ver si sogna,
tu sentirai, di qua da picciol tempo,
di quel che Prato, non ch'altri, t'agogna.
E se già fosse, non sarei per tempo.
Così foss'è, da che pur esser deel
ché più mi graverà, com' più m'attempo.
Noi ci partrimmo, e su per le scale
che n'avea fatto iborni a scender pria,
rimontó 'l duca mio e trasse mee;
e proseguendo la solinga via,
tra le sceghe e tra ' rocc'hi de lo scoglio
lo piè sanza la man non si spedia.
Allor mi dolsi, e ora mi ridogli
quando drizzo la mente a ciò ch'io vidi,
e più lo 'ngnevo affrenno ch'io non soglio,
perché non corra ch'è l'ali quei ghiudi;
si ch', se stella bona o miglior cosa
m' ha dato 'l ben, ch'io stessi nol m'invidi.
Quante 'l villan ch'al poggio si riposa
(while resting on a hillside in the season
when he could not keep track of it except)
sees glimmering below, down in the valley,
there where perhaps he gathers grapes and tills-
so many were the flames that glittered in
the eighth abyss; I made this out as soon
as I had come to where one sees the bottom.
Even as he who was avenged by bears
saw, as it left, Elijah's chariot-
its horses rearing, rising right to heaven;
when he could not keep track of it except
by watching one lone flame in its ascent,
just like a little cloud that climbs on high
so, through the gullet of that ditch, each flame
must make its way; no flame displays its prey,
though every flame has carried off a sinner.
I stood upon the bridge and leaned straight out
to see; and if I had not gripped a rock,
i should have fallen off without a push.
My guide, who noted how intent I was,
told me: "Within those fires there are souls;
each one is swathed in that which scorches him.
Aman the thieves I found five citizens
of yours—such that, that shame has taken me;
with them, you can ascend to no high honor.
But if the dreams dreamt close to dawn are true,
them little time will pass before you feel
what Prato and the others crave for you.
Were that already come, it would not be,
too soon and let it come, since it must be!
As I grow older, it will be more heavy.
We left that deep and, by protruding stones
that served as stairs for our descent before,
my guide climbed up again and drew me forward;
and as we took our solitary path
among the ridge's jagged spurs and rocks,
our feet could not make way without our hands.
It grieved me then and now grieves me again
when I direct my mind to what I saw;
and more than usual, I curb my talent,
that it not run where virtue does not guide;
so that, if my kind star or something better
has given me that gift, I not abuse it.
As many as the fireflies the peasant
(while resting on a hillside in the season
when he who lights the world least hides his face),
just when the fly gives way to the mosquito,
sees glimmering below, down in the valley,
where perhaps he gathers grapes and tills-
some waters the flames that glittered in
the eighth abyss; I made this out as soon
as I had come to where one sees the bottom.
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"Maestro mio," rispos'io, "per udirlo
son io più certo; ma già m'era avviso
che cosí fosse, e già voleva dirsi:
chi è 'n quel foco che vien si diviso
di sopra, che par surger de la pira
dov'Eteòcle col fratel fu miso?".
Rispusse a me: " Là dentro si martir
Ulisse e Diomede, e così insieme
a la vendetta vanno come a l'ira;

e dentro da la lor fiamma si gene
l'agguato del caval che fé la porta
onde uscir de' Romani il gentil seme.

Piangevisi entro l'arte per che, morta,
Deidamia ancor si duol d'Achille,
e del Palladio pena vi si porta".

"S'ei posson dentro da quelle faville
parlar," diss'io, "maestro, assai ten pirego
e ripriego, che l'piengo vaglia mille,
che non mi facci de l'attendere niego
fin che la fiamma cornuta qua vegna;
vedi che del disio ver' lei mi piengo!".

Ed eli a me: "La tua preghiera è degna
di molta loda, e io però l'accetto
li dellaughters e del Palladio pena vi si porta".

"O voi che siete due dentro ad un foco
in questa forma lui parlare audivi
dove parve al mio duca tempo e loco
Perché fuor greci, forse del tuo detto".

"If they can speak within those sparks," I said,
"I pray you and repray and, master, may
my prayer be worth a thousand pleas, do not
forbid my waiting here until the flame
with horns approaches us; for you can see
how, out of my desire, I bend toward it."

And he to me: "What you have asked is worthy
of every praise; therefore, I favor it.
i only ask you this: refrain from talking.

Let me address them-I have understood
what you desire of them. Since they were Greek,
perhaps they'd be disdainful of your speech."

And when my guide adjudged the flame had reached
a point where time and place were opportune,
this was the form I heard his words assume:

"You two who move as one within the flame,
if I deserved of you while I still lived,
if I deserved of you much or a little
when in the world I wrote my noble lines,
do not move on; let one of you retell
where, having gone astray, he found his death."

The greater horn within that ancient flame
began to sway and tremble, murmuring
just like a fire that struggles in the wind;

and then he waved his flame-tip back and forth
as if it were a tongue that tried to speak,
and flung toward us a voice that answered: "When

I sailed away from Circe, who'd beguiled me
to stay more than a year there, near Gaeta
before Aeneas gave that place a name-
neither my fondness for my son nor pity
for my old father nor the love I owe
Penelope, which would have gladdened her,
was able to defeat in me the longing
I had to gain experience of the world
and of the vices and the worth of men.

Therefore, I set out on the open sea
with but one ship and that small company
of those who never had deserted me.

I saw as far as Spain, far as Morocco,
along both shores; I saw Sardinia
and saw the other islands that sea bathes.

And I and my companions were already
old and slow, when we approached the narrows
where Hercules set up his boundary stones
that men might heed and never reach beyond:
on my right, I had gone past Seville,
and on the left, already passed Ceuta.

'Brothers,' I said, 'o you, who having crossed
a hundred thousand dangers, reach the west,
to this brief waking-time that still is left

He answered me: "Within that flame, Ulysses
and Diomedes suffer; they, who went
as one to rage, now share one punishment.

And there, together in their flame, they grieve
over the horse's fraud that caused a breach-
the gate that let Rome's noble seed escape.

There they regret the guile that makes the dead
Deidamia still lament Achilles;
and there, for the Palladium, they pay."

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and on the left, already passed Ceuta.

'Brothers,' I said, 'o you, who having crossed
a hundred thousand dangers, reach the west,
to this brief waking-time that still is left
d'i nostri sensi ch'è del rimanente
non vogliate negar l'esperïenza
di retro al sol, del mondo sanza gente.

Considerate la vostra semenza:
fatti non foste a viver come bruti,
ma per seguir virtute e canoscenza".

Li miei compagni fec'io sì aguti,
con questa orazion picciola, al cammino,
che a pena poscia li avrei ritenu

e volta nostra poppa nel mattino,
de' remi facemmo ali al folle volo,
sempre acquistando dal lato mancino.

Tutte le stelle già de l'altro polo
vedea la notte, e 'l nostro tanto basso,
che non surgëa fuor del marin suolo.

Cinque volte racceso e tante caso
lo lume era di sotto da la luna,
poi che 'ntrati eravam ne l'alto passo,

quando n'apparve una montagna, brun
per la distanza, e parvemi alta tanto
quanto veduta non avëa alcuna.

Noi ci allegrammo, e tosto tornò in pianto;
ché da la nova terra un turbo nacque
e percosse del legno il primo canto.

Tre volte il fé girar con tutte l'acque;
la quarta levar la poppa in suso
e la prora ire in giù, com'altrui placque,
infin che "l mar fu sovra noi richiuso".

unto your senses, you must not deny
experience of that which lies beyond
the sun, and of the world that is unpeopled.

Consider well the seed that gave you birth:
you were not made to live your lives as brutes,
but to be followers of worth and knowledge.

I spurred my comrades with this brief address
to meet the journey with such eagerness
that I could hardly, then, have held them back;

and having turned our stern toward morning, we
made wings out of our oars in a wild flight
and always gained upon our left-hand side.

At night I now could see the other pole
and all its stars; the star of ours had fallen
and never rose above the plain of the ocean.

Five times the light beneath the moon had been
rekindled, and, as many times, was spent,
since that hard passage faced our first attempt,

when there before us rose a mountain, dark
because of distance, and it seemed to me
the highest mountain I had ever seen.

And we were glad, but this soon turned to sorrow,
for out of that new land a whirlwind rose
and hammered at our ship, against her bow.

Three times it turned her round with all the waters;
and at the fourth, it lifted up the stern
so that our prow plunged deep, as pleased an Other,

until the sea again closed-over us."