

Toronto Salutes Dante

Inferno XXIX in Italian, English, and German

Italian	English	German
La molta gente e le diverse piaghe avean le luci mie sì inebriate, che de lo stare a piangere eran vaghe.	So many souls and such outlandish wounds had made my eyes inebriate—they longed to stay and weep. But Virgil said to me	So trunken waren von dem vielen Volke Und den verschiednen Wunden meine Augen, Daß sie sich sehnten, ruhend auszuweinen.
Ma Virgilio mi disse: "Che pur guate? perché la vista tua pur si soffolge là giù tra l'ombre triste smozzicate?"	"Why are you staring so insistently? Why does your vision linger there below among the lost and mutilated shadows?"	Mein Meister aber sprach: Was schaust du noch, Was haftet unverwandt dein Blick dort unten Bei den verstümmelten unsel'gen Schatten?
Tu non hai fatto sì a l'altre bolge; pensa, se tu annoverar le credi, che miglia ventidue la valle volge.	You did not do so at the other moats. If you would count them all, consider: twenty- two miles make up the circuit of the valley.	In andren Bolgien tatest du nicht also Vernimm, willst du, die hier im Tal sind, zählen, Daß zweiundzwanzig Miglien es umkreiset.
E già la luna è sotto i nostri piedi; lo tempo è poco omai che n'è concesso, e altro è da veder che tu non vedi".	The moon already is beneath our feet; the time allotted to us now is short, and there is more to see than you see here."	Schon steht der Mond grad' unter unsren Füßen, Nur wenig Zeit ist jetzt uns noch verstattet Und manches bleibt zu sehn, das du noch nicht sahst. —
"Se tu avessi", rispuos'io appresso, "atteso a la cagion per ch'io guardava, forse m'avresti ancor lo star dimesso".	"Had you," I answered him without a pause, "been able to consider why I looked, you might have granted me a longer stay."	Wenn du den Grund beachtet hättest, sagt' ich Darauf, der mich bewog hinabzublicken, Das Weilen hättest du vielleicht gestattet. —
Parte sen giva, e io retro li andava, lo duca, già facendo la risposta, e soggiugnendo: "Dentro a quella cava	Meanwhile my guide had moved ahead; I went behind him, answering as I walked on, and adding: "In that hollow upon which	Schon ging mein Führer und ich folgt' ihm nach, Als ich ihm diese Antwort gab, und weiter Fügt' ich hinzu: In jener dunklen Grube,
dov'io tenea or li occhi sì a posta, credo ch'un spirto del mio sangue pianga la colpa che là giù cotanto costa".	just now, I kept my eyes intent, I think a spirit born of my own blood laments the guilt which, down below, costs one so much."	Wohin ich eben stier mein Auge wandte, Glaub' ich, beweint ein Geist von meinem Blute Die Sünde, die so teuer hier bezahlt wird. —
Allor disse 'l maestro: "Non si franga lo tuo pensier da qui innanzi sovr'ello. Attendi ad altro, ed ei là si rimanga;	At this my master said: "Don't let your thoughts about him interrupt you from here on: attend to other things, let him stay there;	Da sprach zu mir mein Meister: Es bekümmre Nicht fürder seinethalb sich dein Gedanke: Er bleibe wo er ist, merk du auf andres;
ch'io vidi lui a piè del ponticello mostrarti e minacciar forte col dito, e udi' 'l nominar Geri del Bello.	for I saw him below the little bridge, his finger pointing at you, threatening, and heard him called by name—Geri del Bello.	Denn an dem Fuß der Brücke sah ich ihn, Dich, heftig drohend, mit dem Finger zeigen, Und Geri hört' ich ihn del Bello nennen.
Tu eri allor sì del tutto impedito sopra colui che già tenne Altaforte, che non guardasti in là, sì fu partito".	But at that moment you were occupied with him who once was lord of Hautefort; you did not notice Geri—he moved off."	Du warst von dem, der Hautefort besessen, Damals so ganz gefesselt, daß nicht eher Du ihn gewahrtest, als bis er davon ging. —
"O duca mio, la violenta morte che non li è vendicata ancor", diss'io, "per alcun che de l'onta sia consorte,	"My guide, it was his death by violence, for which he still is not avenged," I said, "by anyone who shares his shame, that made	O Führer, der an ihm verübte Mord, So rief ich aus, den bis zur Stunde keiner, Auf den die Schande mitgefallen, rächte,
fece lui disdegnoso; ond'el sen gio sanza parlarmi, sì com'io estimo: e in ciò m' ha el fatto a sé più pio".	him so disdainful now; and—I suppose- for this he left without a word to me, and this has made me pity him the more."	Erweckte seinen Zorn, und drum vermut' ich, Ging er vorüber, ohn' ein Wort an mich; Mich aber faßt darob erhöhtes Mitleid. —
Così parlammo infino al loco primo che de lo scoglio l'altra valle mostra, se più lume vi fosse, tutto ad imo.	And so we talked until we found the first point of the ridge that, if there were more light, would show the other valley to the bottom.	So sprachen wir bis wo der Fels zuerst Das nächste Tal, wär's heller nur gewesen, Uns bis zum Grunde hätte sehen lassen.
Quando noi fummo sor l'ultima chiostra di Malebolge, sì che i suoi conversi potean parere a la veduta nostra,	When we had climbed above the final cloister of Malebolge, so that its lay brothers were able to appear before our eyes,	Wir standen oberhalb der letzten Klausel Der Malebolge, deren Laienbrüder Sich unsrem Blick nun offenbaren konnten.
lamenti saettaron me diversi, che di pietà ferrati avean li strali; ond'io li orecchi con le man copersi.	I felt the force of strange laments, like arrows whose shafts are barbed with pity; and at this, I had to place my hands across my ears.	Da stürmten, Pfeilen ähnlich, deren Spitzen Mitleid bewehrt, viel Klagen auf mich ein, Weshalb die Ohren mit der Hand ich deckte.
Qual dolor fora, se de li spedali di Valdichiana tra 'l luglio e 'l settembre e di Maremma e di Sardigna i mali	Just like the sufferings that all the sick of Val di Chiana's hospitals, Maremma's, Sardina's, from July until September	So vieles Leiden als beisammen wäre, Wenn man in eine Gruft mit der Spitäler Des Chianatals vom Juli bis September
Qual dolor fora, se de li spedali di Valdichiana tra 'l luglio e 'l settembre e di Maremma e di Sardigna i mali.	would muster if assembled in one ditch- so was it here, and such a stench rose up as usually comes from festering limbs.	Maremma's und Sardiniens Seuchen brächte, So viel war hier, und solcher Stank erhob sich, Als aus Gliedmaßen, welche eitern, aufsteigt.
Noi discendemmo in su l'ultima riva del lungo scoglio, pur da man sinistra; e allor fu la mia vista più viva	And keeping always to the left, we climbed down to the final bank of the long ridge, and then my sight could see more vividly	Wir stiegen, immerdar nach links gewandt, Zum letzten Strand des langen Felsens nieder, Und klarer sah ich da in jene Tiefe,

giù ver' lo fondo, là 've la ministra
de l'alto Sire infallibil giustizia
punisce i falsador che qui registra.

Non credo ch'a veder maggior tristizia
fosse in Egina il popol tutto infermo,
quando fu l'aere sì pien di malizia,

che li animali, infino al picciol vermo,
cascaron tutti, e poi le genti antiche,
secondo che i poeti hanno per fermo,

si ristorar di seme di formiche;
ch'era a veder per quella oscura valle
languir li spirti per diverse biche.

Qual sovra 'l ventre e qual sovra le spalle
l'un de l'altro giacea, e qual carpone
si trasmutava per lo tristo calle.

Passo passo andavam senza sermone,
guardando e ascoltando li ammalati,
che non potean levar le lor persone.

Io vidi due sedere a sé poggiati,
com'a scaldar si poggia tegghia a tegghia,
dal capo al piè di schianze macolati;

e non vidi già mai menare stregghia
a ragazzo aspettato dal signorso,
né a colui che mal volontier vegghia,

come ciascun menava spesso il morso
de l'unghie sopra sé per la gran rabbia
del pizzicor, che non ha più soccorso;

e sì traevan giù l'unghie la scabbia,
come coltel di scardova le scaglie
o d'altro pesce che più larghe l'abbia.

"O tu che con le dita ti dismaglie",
cominciò 'l duca mio a l'un di loro,
"e che fai d'esse talvolta tanaglie,

dinne s'alcun Latino è tra costoro
che son quinc'entro, se l'unghia ti basti
etternalmente a cotesto lavoro".

"Latin siam noi, che tu vedi sì guasti
qui ambedue", rispuose l'un piangendo;
"ma tu chi se' che di noi dimandasti?".

E 'l duca disse: "I son un che discendo
con questo vivo giù di balzo in balzo,
e di mostrar lo 'nferno a lui intendo".

Allor si ruppe lo comun rincalzo;
e tremando ciascuno a me si volse
con altri che l'udiron di rimbalzo.

Lo buon maestro a me tutto s'accolse,
dicendo: "Dì a lor ciò che tu vuoi";
e io incominciai, poscia ch'ei volse:

"Se la vostra memoria non s'imboli
nel primo mondo da l'umane menti,
ma s'ella viva sotto molti soli,

ditemi chi voi siete e di che genti;
la vostra sconcia e fastidiosa pena
di palesarvi a me non vi spaventi".

"Io fui d'Arezzo, e Albero da Siena",
rispuose l'un, "mi fé mettere al foco;
ma quel per ch'io mori' qui non mi mena.

Vero è ch'i' dissi lui, parlando a gioco:
"I mi saprei levar per l'aere a volo";
e quei, ch'avea vaghezza e senno poco,

into the bottom, where unerring Justice,
the minister of the High Lord, punishes
the falsifiers she had registered.

I do not think that there was greater grief
in seeing all Aegina's people sick
(then, when the air was so infected that

all animals, down to the little worm,
collapsed; and afterward, as poets hold
to be the certain truth, those ancient peoples

received their health again through seed of ants)
than I felt when I saw, in that dark valley,
the spirits languishing in scattered heaps.

Some lay upon their bellies, some upon
the shoulders of another spirit, some
crawled on all fours along that squalid road.

We journeyed step by step without a word,
watching and listening to those sick souls,
who had not strength enough to lift themselves.

I saw two sitting propped against each other-
as pan is propped on pan to heat them up-
and each, from head to foot, spotted with scabs;

and I have never seen a stableboy
whose master waits for him, or one who stays
awake reluctantly, so ply a horse

with currycomb, as they assailed themselves
with clawing nails-their itching had such force
and fury, and there was no other help.

And so their nails kept scraping off the scabs,
just as a knife scrapes off the scales of carp
or of another fish with scales more large.

"O you who use your nails to strip yourself,"
my guide began to say to one of them,
"and sometimes have to turn them into pincers,

tell us if there are some Italians
among the sinners in this moat-so may
your nails hold out, eternal, at their work."

"We two whom you see so disfigured here,
we are Italians," one said, in tears.
"But who are you who have inquired of us?"

My guide replied: "From circle down to circle,
together with this living man, I am
one who descends; I mean to show him Hell."

At this their mutual support broke off;
and, quivering, each spirit turned toward me
with others who, by chance, had heard his words.

Then my good master drew more close to me,
saying: "Now tell them what it is you want."
And I began to speak, just as he wished:

"So that your memory may never fade
within the first world from the minds of men,
but still live on-and under many suns-

do tell me who you are and from what city,
and do not let your vile and filthy torment
make you afraid to let me know your names."

One answered me: "My city was Arezzo
and Albero of Siena had me burned;
but what I died for does not bring me here.

It's true that I had told him-jestingly-
'I'd know enough to fly through air'; and he,
with curiosity, but little sense,

In der die Dienerin des hohen Herrschers,
Die nie zu täuschende Gerechtigkeit,
Die Fälscher, die sie hier schon einschrieb, strafet.

Nicht trauriger, vermut' ich, war der Anblick,
Das ganze Volk Aegina's krank zu sehn,
Als so verpestet war der ganze Dunstkreis,

Daß, was da lebte, bis zum kleinsten Wurme
Tot niederfiel, und dann sich die Bewohner,
Wie uns als Wahrheit melden die Poeten,

Aus der Ameisen Samen neu ergänzten!
Nicht traur'ger, als in diesem Tal die Geister
Zu sehn, wie haufenweise sie verletzten.

Auf seinem Bauch lag der, ein zweiter stützte
Sich auf des andren Schultern, jener schlich
Den traur'gen Pfad dahin auf allen Vieren.

Langsamen Schrittes gingen wir und schwiegen;
Doch sah'n und hörten wir auf jene Kranken,
Die nicht vermochten sich emporzurichten.

Und aneinander sah ich zwei sich stützen,
Wie Tiegel man an Tiegel stützt beim Wärmen,
Vom Haupt bis zu dem Fuß bedeckt mit Schörfen.

Nie sah ich einen Knecht, der ungerne wach bleibt,
Nie einen, dessen Dienstherr auf ihn wartet,
Den Striegel in so großer Hast bewegen,

Als jeder dieser beiden, ob der Qual
Des Juckens, die er so nur weiß zu lindern,
Am Leibe mit den Nägeln hin- und herfuhr.

Und wie ein Messer Schuppen streift vom Karpfen
Und andren Fischen, die noch größere haben,
So rissen jene Nägel ab die Schörfe.

Der mit den Fingern du dich selbst zerfleischest,
Begann zu einem jener zwei mein Meister,
Und öfters auch als Zange sie gebrauchest,

Soll dir in Ewigkeit zu solcher Arbeit
Dein Nagel g'nügen, so erteil' uns Auskunft,
Ob irgendein Lateiner ist hierinnen. –

Wir beid', erwidert' unter Tränen einer,
Die du so schwer entstellt siehst, sind Lateiner;
Doch du, der nach uns frugest, sprich, wer bist du? –

Von Stufe, sagte drauf Virgil, zu Stufe
Steig' ich mit diesem, der noch lebt, hernieder,
Denn mir liegt ob, die Hölle ihm zu zeigen. –

Da brach die Wechselstützung auseinander;
Erzitternd blickten nur nach mir die beiden
Und alle die's zur zweiten Hand vernommen.

Drauf wandte sich zu mir der gute Meister
Und sagte: Sprich zu ihnen was dir gut dünkt. –
Und ich begann, so wie er mir geheißen:

Soll eu'r Gedächtnis in der ersten Welt
Der menschlichen Erinn'ung nicht entschwinden
Und weiter leben unter vielen Sonnen,

So sagt mir, wer ihr seid und welchen Stammes;
Die ekle Strafe, die ihr duldet hindre
Euch nicht an eures Namens Offenbarung. –

Ich stamme von Arezzo, sprach der eine,
Verbrennen ließ mich Albero von Siena;
Doch starb ich nicht für das was mich hierher führt.

Wohl sagt' ich, doch im Scherze, daß ich fliegend
Mich aufzuschwingen in die Luft vermöchte;
Einfältig und voll Neugier wollte jener,

volle ch'ì li mostrassi l'arte; e solo
perch'io nol feci Dedalo, mi fece
ardere a tal che l'avea per figliuolo.

Ma ne l'ultima bolgia de le diece
me per l'alchìmia che nel mondo usai
dannò Minòs, a cui fallar non lece".

E io dissi al poeta: "Or fu già mai
gente sì vana come la sanese?
Certo non la francesca sì d'assai".

Onde l'altro lebbroso, che m'intese,
rispuose al detto mio: "Tra' mene Stricca
che seppe far le temperate spese,

e Niccolò che la costuma ricca
del garofano prima discoverse
ne l'orto dove tal seme s'appicca;

e tra' ne la brigata in che disperse
Caccia d'Ascian la vigna e la gran fonda,
e l'Abbagliato suo senno proferse.

Ma perché sappi chi sì ti seconda
contra i Sanesi, aguzza ver' me l'occhio,
sì che la faccia mia ben ti risponda:

sì vedrai ch'io son l'ombra di Capocchio,
che falsai li metalli con l'alchìmia;
e te dee ricordar, se ben t'adocchio,

com'io fui di natura buona scimia".

wished me to show that art to him and, just
because I had not made him Daedalus,
had one who held him as a son burn me.

But Minos, who cannot mistake, condemned
my spirit to the final pouch of ten
for alchemy I practiced in the world."

And then I asked the poet: "Was there ever
so vain a people as the Sieneese?
Even the French can't match such vanity."

At this, the other leper, who had heard me,
replied to what I'd said: "Except for Stricca,
for he knew how to spend most frugally;

and Niccolò, the first to make men see
that cloves can serve as luxury (such seed,
in gardens where it suits, can take fast root);

and, too, Caccia d'Asciano's company,
with whom he squandered vineyards and tilled fields,
while Abbagliato showed such subtlety.

But if you want to know who joins you so
against the Sieneese, look hard at me-
that way, my face can also answer rightly-

and see that I'm the shade of that Capocchio
whose alchemy could counterfeit fine metals.
And you, if I correctly take your measure,

recall how apt I was at aping nature."

Daß ich die Kunst ihm lehr', und weil ich nicht
Zum Dädalus ihn machte, ließ zum Holzstoß
Er mich durch den, der ihn als Sohn hielt, schicken.

Weil aber droben Alchimie ich übte
Hat Minos, der sich nimmer täuscht, zur letzten
Von den zehn schlimmen Bolgien mich verurteilt. –

Zum Dichter sagt' ich drauf: Sah man wohl jemals
Ein Volk leichtsinnig so wie die Sanesen?
Selbst die Franzosen sind's um vieles minder. –

Der andre Sücht'ge, der mein Wort vernommen,
Erwiderte darauf: Doch nimm den Stricca,
Der so bescheidnen Aufwand machte, aus,

Auch Nicolò nimm aus, der in dem Garten,
Wo solche Saat gedeiht, der Nägelein
Kostspieliges Rezept erfunden hat.

Nimm die Gesellschaft aus, in welcher Caccia
D'Asciano mit dem großen Wald den Weinberg
Und Abbagliato seinen Ruf vergeudet.

Doch, daß du wissest, wer so mit dir einstimmt
Im Tadel der Sanesen, sieh mich scharf an,
So daß mein Angesicht dir Antwort gebe.

Erkennen wirst du dann Capocchio's Schatten,
Der ich durch Alchimie Metalle fälschte,
Und, seh' ich anders recht, muß dir bewußt sein,

Daß ich ein guter Affe der Natur war. –

Credits

Italian: D. Alighieri, *La Commedia secondo l'antica vulgata*, ed. by G. Petrocchi (Florence, 1994) from the website www.danteonline.it by the Società dantesca italiana.

English: D. Alighieri, *The Divine Comedy*, ed. by Allen Mandelbaum (Berkeley, 1980) from the website www.danteonline.it by the Società dantesca italiana.

German: D. Alighieri, *Die göttliche Komödie*, ed. by Karl Witte (Berlin, 1921; First publication 1865).

Commemorating the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri, **Toronto Salutes Dante** features more than thirty Canada-based guests who read Dante's *Inferno* in various languages, several for the first time. In addition to ten different Italian dialects, there are represented Anishinaabemowin, Arabic, Bulgarian, English, Farsi, French, German, Latin, Mandarin, Portuguese, Québécois, Russian, Sanskrit, Slovak, Spanish, Stoney Nakoda, Swedish, Thai, and Ukrainian. In 15-minute clips, well-known personalities of Canadian public and cultural life, professors, and students at the University of Toronto, and members of the Italo-Canadian community share their voices and fresh memories of the most important Italian author in world literature. Listen to Dante's *Inferno* as you have never heard it before on the [Department of Italian Studies' Youtube channel](#) from March 25th to June 2021.

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