Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy in popular culture

The life and works of Dante Alighieri, especially his masterpiece, the Divine Comedy, have been a source of inspiration for many artists for seven centuries. Some notable examples are listed below.

Animations, comics, and graphic novels

(Alphabetical by title)

- In the 1946 Merrie Melodies cartoon Book Revue, starring Daffy Duck, the Big Bad Wolf falls into the book Dante's Inferno after hearing Frank Sinatra singing.
- The short animation, Dante's Inferno Animated (2012), featuring Eric Roberts as Dante, is based on Dino di Durante's original paintings of Dante's Inferno.[1]
- The main antagonist of the first anime adaptation of the anime/manga series Fullmetal Alchemist (2001) is a woman named Dante, who controls seven homunculi (which are featured in all versions of Fullmetal Alchemist) that are named after the seven deadly sins and each of which represent one of the seven terraces of purgatorio. They also suffer deaths or injuries similar to the punishment associated with the terrace each is named after. The Gate in this series is visually represented by Rodin's sculpture The Gates of Hell.
- In an episode of the animated comedy series Futurama titled "Hell is Other Robots (1999)", the character Bender is dragged to robot hell, the entrance of which is hidden in an abandoned carnival ride called "Inferno". In a musical sequence, the levels of hell are described, each level complete with ironic punishments.
- Jimbo in Purgatory: being a mis-recounting of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy in pictures and un-numbered footnotes, a 33-page graphic novel by Gary Panter, an adaptation of Dante's Purgatorio (melded with Boccaccio's Decameron and a bit of Canterbury Tales, John Milton, John Dryden, and pop culture references).[2][3]
- DC/Vertigo comics' Kid Eternity (which premiered in Hit Comics #25, published by Quality Comics in December 1942.), in which Kid and his companion Jerry Sullivan travel to a Dante-inspired Hell to free a partner of Kid's. The structure of the comic also draws features from Dante's Inferno.
- DC/Vertigo comics's Lucifer, based on characters from Neil Gaiman's The Sandman, featuring aspects of a Dante-inspired Hell and Heaven, particularly the Primum Mobile and Nine sections of Hell.
- Mickey's Inferno is a comic book adaptation written by Guido Martina and drawn by Angelo Bioletto featuring classic Disney characters including Mickey Mouse, Goofy and Donald Duck published by the then-Italian Disney comic book licensees Mondadori in the monthly Topolino from Oct. 1949 to March 1950. An English-language version appeared in Walt Disney's Comics and Stories #666 [March 2006].
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• Norm Feuti referenced *Inferno* in his comic strip *Retail* on December 8, 2007; Cooper places a plague with inscription *Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch'entrate* over the stockroom door. [4]
• The anime, *Saint Seiya*, more necessarily in the arc "Hades Inferno" it has, not only personages, but all the structure of the hell based on the circles of Dante, but here being called as the 9th Prisons.
• An issue of the first volume of comic book adaptations of *Star Trek* by DC Comics, "Hell in a Handbasket", involves Captain Kirk and his crew being subjected to a telepathic hallucination of Hell, as described in *The Divine Comedy*, when an ill telepath who was recently reading the book generates an illusion that turns the entire *Enterprise*- save for the bridge, due to its distance from him- into Hell, forcing the senior staff to descend through a Hell populated by crewmembers who have subconsciously 'judged' themselves to find the telepath so that Spock can mind-meld with him and restore his sense of reality.
• Ty Templeton parodied Dante in his *Stig's Inferno* (1985-1986).
• Neil Gaiman's *The Sandman* comic series features a heavily Dante-inspired Hell, including the woods of Suicide, the Malebolge, and the City of Dis. Lucifer is also imprisoned in Hell.
• The visual novel and anime series *Umineko no Naku Koro ni* contains several elements from the *Divine Comedy*, including two characters named Beatrice (as the Golden Witch), Virgilia (as the Endless Witch) and the Stakes (Seven Deadly Sins).
  • The anime adaptation has an ending theme entitled *La Divina Tragedia ~Makyoku~*, named after the title *La Divina Comedia*. "Makyoku" is the opposite of "Shinkyoku", *Divine Comedy* 's Japanese title.
  • The fourth *Uncanny X-Men* Annual, "Nightcrawler's Inferno", chronicles the descent of Doctor Strange and the X-Men into a facsimile of Hell based on *Dante's Inferno*, to rescue Nightcrawler from an illusion created by his adopted mother, who blames him for the death of his adopted brother (Unaware of the fact that Nightcrawler only killed his brother because the other man had become a murderer).

Architecture

• The Danteum is an unbuilt monument designed by the Italian modernist architect Giuseppe Terragni at the behest of Benito Mussolini's fascist government.
• The Palacio Barolo in Buenos Aires, completed in 1923, was designed in accordance with the cosmology of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, motivated by Italian architect Mario Palanti's admiration for Dante.

Digital arts and computer games

Digital Arts

• *iDante*: interactive version of the poem for the iPad and iPhone featuring fully colorized illustrations from Gustave Doré, 3D reconstructions of key environments, iconic maps of Hell, Purgatory and Paradise
• The *Inferno* embedded operating system takes its name and the names of many of its components from the *Divine Comedy*, such the Dis virtual machine, its implementation of the 9P protocol (Styx), the main programming language Limbo, and the Charon web browser. This was allegedly because Ken Thompson was reading the *Commedia* while working on the design of *Inferno.* [citation needed]
Games

• Pandemonium, the highest-level zone in the *Anarchy Online* expansion *Shadowlands*, is split into four parts, each named after one of the four parts of the Ninth Circle.

• In *Bayonetta*, they used many references to the Divine Comedy. Rodin, one of Bayonetta's allies, owns a store called "Gates of Hell". There are also three realms that the witch can travel between; they are called "Purgatory", "Paradiso" and "Inferno". Rodin's name on its own is a reference as well, after the sculptor Auguste Rodin, who sculpted a statue based on Inferno called the Gates of Hell.

• *Castlevania: Aria of Sorrow* and *Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow* feature several spear-wielding flying demons named after the Malebranche: Cagnazzo, Scarmaglione, Rubicant, Draghignazzo, Barbariccia and Malacoda. Rubicant and Scarmaglione are mistranslated as "Lubicant" and "Skull Millione."

• Beyond Software wrote *Dante's Inferno* in 1986 for the Commodore 64.

• *Dante's Inferno* is a 2010 action-adventure video game developed by Visceral Games and published by Electronic Arts for the Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3 consoles. The game was also developed by Artificial Mind and Movement for release on the PlayStation Portable. The story is loosely based on Dante's *Inferno*.

• *Dante's Inferno: An Animated Epic* is a direct-to-DVD animated film released on February 9, 2010. The film is a spin-off from the above video game.

• *Dante's Inferno* is a series of six comic books based on the above video game. Published by Christos Gage with art by Diego Latorre.

• In *Day of the Tentacle*, when you play as Bernard you can tell the Novelty Good's Salesman that he looks like Dante Alighieri.

• In *Descent II*, the first level is titled "Ahayweh Gate," an acronym for the words at the gate of Hell, All Hope Abandon Ye Who Enter Here.

• In the game *Devil May Cry*, the protagonist's name is Dante, his brother is Vergil, and Dante's partner-in-crime's name is Trish, a derivative of the name Beatrice.

• *Devil May Cry 3: Dante's Awakening*, a video game in the *Devil May Cry* series, is very loosely based on the *Divine Comedy* by the use of allusions, including the game's protagonist Dante, and other characters like Vergil and Cerberus. Many of the enemies are named after the Seven Deadly Sins, such as "Hell Pride" or "Hell Lust."

• In *Devil May Cry 4*, when the player dies the screen will shatter and read 'Abandon all hope...'. A portion titled 'The Ninth Circle' is designed around a massive statue of a devil. One of the characters in the game, Agnus, is named after the Agnus Dei, prayer for the Third Terrace of Purgatory in the *Divine Comedy*. Also the game has special mode where one of the protagonists must progress through 101 stages. On the Xbox 360 version the player receives a gaming achievement for every ten levels completed up to the ninth. These achievements are named after the nine circles of hell. The game's references to Dante's works go beyond the *Divine Comedy*, since the last mission is called *La Vita Nuova*.

• In *DmC Devil May Cry*, Limbo City (named after the first circle of the Inferno) is the main location of the game's events. The city appears as a dreary landscape, but transforms into a twisted, chaotic parody of itself whenever Dante is caught in the sight of one of the city's demonic security cameras.

• The third episode of the video game *Doom*, appropriately called Inferno, takes place in Hell, in such places as Limbo and Dis.

• The role-playing game *Dungeons & Dragons* named some levels of the Nine Hells after locations in Dante's *Inferno*. The game also borrowed the name "malebranche" for one diabolical race, although the original write-up mistranslated that word as "evil horn".

• The Planescape setting, in particular, borrows many elements from the book (some wholesale, some piecemeal), and much of the expanded cosmology, with dimensions for the dead based on alignment and most dimensions having many separate layers, are inspired by those seen in the *Inferno*.

• The cross-genre role-playing game *Shadowrun* features Dante's Inferno as the most popular club in the Seattle metroplex. The club is nine stories tall and the bottommost floor is a private floor marked "Hell".
• Europa Universalis 3 features advisors that the player hires to his court - the Philosopher’s portrait is modeled after Dante.
• In Fallout 3, there is a bar called “The 9th Circle” in the city of Underworld. The bar’s bouncer is named Charon; a robot guarding the city is named Cerberus.
• Final Fantasy IV features four Elemental Lords named Rubicante, Scarmiglione, Barbariccia, and Cagnazzo, after members of the Malebranche. A mid-game boss, Calcabrina, also has the name of a Malebranche demon. Also, there exists a superboss in the DS version named Geryon.
• Final Fantasy V features yet another Malebranche, Farfarello.
• Also, Final Fantasy VI’s final boss resembles a colossal mass of Satan entrapped to his waist (Hell), humans, animals and machinery (Purgatory), and a strange but yet angelic duo of celestial entities atop the totem of non-existence (Heaven), with the insane Kefka as the deity of magic and death flying above who tells the players that life is meaningless once they scale his tower of destruction. In the French localization of the series as a whole, the recurring summon Ifrit’s ultimate attack is directly named after the Divine Comedy.
• In Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock, the final level takes place in Hell and is appropriately named “Lou’s Inferno”, a possible reference to Dante.
• Halo 3: ODST contains many references to the poem. For example, the Rookie is called into Section Nine, which is very icy and cold, similar to the ninth ring of Hell. In addition, the player's guide through the end of the game is called Vergil. Further, there are characters in the game that correspond to each of the sins.
• In the 1995 computer adaptation of Harlan Ellison's I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream, Dante's Divine Comedy is the book that contains a hidden mirror in the Lord's Bedroom in Ted's Scenario.
• In Persona 3 FES, areas are called Malebolge, Cocytus, Caina, Antenora, Ptolomea, Judecca, and Empyrean.
• The fifth act of Rainbow Six: Vegas takes place in a casino that is under construction called “Dante’s”. The first chapter is called "Hell's Gate".
• The 2012 game Resident Evil: Revelations references Dante's Inferno extensively, as a bioterrorist organization, "Il Veltro", believes society has degraded into a living version of the nine circles. Verses of the poem are provided at the start of each level. A number of enemies in the game are named after the Malebranche also featured in the poem. The music in the final chapter has a choir eerily singing lines from Inferno, and the final boss actually quotes it before entering his chamber.
• In Super Robot Taisen: Original Generation, Judecca, Levi Tolar's personal unit, uses attacks named after the four zones of the ninth circle of Hell.
• Tamashii no Mon (translation: "Gate of Souls") is a computer game developed by Koei and released on the PC98 computer system in 1994. It is an adventure that closely follows Dante’s journey through Inferno.[citation needed]
• In The Last Remnant, there is a boss that is loosely based on the Gates of Hell. The background music that plays while fighting this boss is also called "The Gates of Hell".
• In 1999's Theme Park World, the advisor says, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here," at the start of Halloween World. This is a reference to Inferno.
• In Wild Arms 2, there is a gang called Cocytus, whose members are named Caina, Antenora, Ptolomea, and Judecca.
• In World of Warcraft, a sign before the entrance to Deadwind Pass states, "Abandon All Hope, Ye Who Enter Here."
• In 2011, Z-man games issued a game called De Vulgari Eloquentia based on Dante’s work by the same name. [5]
Literature

- Geoffrey Chaucer (ca. 1343-1400) is responsible for a number of translations and adaptations of, and explicit references to, Dante's work.\[^6\]
  - "A Complaynt to His Lady," an early short poem, is written in terza rima, the rhyme scheme Dante invented for the Comedy.
  - Anelida and Arcite ends with a "compleynt" by Anelida, the lover jilted by Arcite; the compleynt begins with the phrase "So thirleth with the poynt of remembraunce" and ends with "Hath thirled with the poynt of remembraunce," copied from Purgatory 12.32, "la punctura di la rimembranza."
  - The House of Fame, a dream vision in three books in which the narrator is guided through the heavens by an otherworldly guide, has been described as a parody of the Comedy. The narrator echoes Inferno 2.32 in the poem (2.588-92).
  - The Monk's Tale from The Canterbury Tales describes (in greater and more emphatic detail) the plight of Count Ugolino (Inferno, cantos 32 and 33), referring explicitly to Dante's original text in 7.2459-62.
  - The beginning of the last stanza of Troilus and Criseyde (5.1863-65) is modelled on Paradiso 12.28-30.
  - John Milton finds various uses for Dante, whose work he knew well:\[^7\]
    - Milton refers to Dante's insistence on the separation of worldly and religious power in Of Reformation, where he cites Inferno 19.115-117.
    - Beatrice's condemnation of corrupt and neglectful preachers, Paradiso 29.107-9 ("so that the wretched sheep, in ignorance, return from pasture, having fed on wind") is translated and adapted in Lycidas 125-26, "The hungry Sheep look up, and are not fed, But swoln with wind, and the rank mist they draw," when Milton condemns corrupt clergy.
    - The title of Honoré de Balzac's work La Comédie humaine (the "Human Comedy," 1815-1848) is usually considered a conscious adaptation of Dante's.,\[^8\] whilst Dante himself features as a character in the 1831 novel Les Proscrits from that work.
    - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who translated the Divine Comedy into English, also wrote a poem titled "Mezzo Cammin" ("Halfway," 1845), alluding to the first line of the Comedy, and a sonnet sequence (of six sonnets) under the title "Divina Commedia" (1867), published as flyleaves to his translation.\[^9\]
    - Karl Marx uses a paraphrase of Purgatory (V, 13) to conclude the preface to the first edition of Das Kapital (1867), as a kind of motto: "Segui il tuo corso, e lascia dir le genti" ("follow your own road, and let the people talk").\[^10\]
    - In E. M. Forster's novel Where Angels Fear to Tread (1905), the character of Gino Carella, upon first introducing himself, quotes the first lines of Inferno (the novel includes several references to Dante's La Vita Nuova as well).
    - T. S. Eliot cites Inferno, XXVII, 61-66, as an epigraph to "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (1915). Eliot cites heavily from and alludes to Dante in Prufrock and Other Observations (1917), Ara vus prec (1920), and The Waste Land (1922).
    - First begun in 1916, Ezra Pound's Cantos take the Comedy as a model.
    - Primo Levi cites Dante's Divine Comedy in the chapter called "Canto of Ulysses" in his novel Se questo è un uomo (If This Is a Man) (1947), published in the United States as Survival in Auschwitz, and in other parts of this book; the fires of Hell are compared to the "real threat of the fires of the crematorium."
    - Malcolm Lowry paralleled Dante's descent into hell with Geoffrey Firmin's descent into alcoholism in his epic novel Under the Volcano (1947). In contrast to the original, Lowry's character explicitly refuses grace and "chooses hell," though Firmin does have a Dr. Virgil as a guide (and his brother, Hugh Firmin, quotes the Comedy from memory in ch. 6).
    - Jorge Luis Borges, who wrote extensively about Dante, included two short texts in his Dreamtigers (El Hacedor, 1960): "Paradiso, XXXI, 108" and "Inferno, I, 32," which paraphrase and comment on Dante's lines.
• Poet Derek Walcott, in 1949, publishes *Epitaph for the Young: XII Cantos*, which he later acknowledged as deliberately influenced by Dante.

• James Merrill published his *Divine Comedies*, a collection of poetry, in 1976; a selection in that volume, "The Book of Ephraim," consists "of conversations held, via the Ouija board, with dead friends and spirits in 'another world.'"

• Authors Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle wrote a modern sequel, *Inferno* (1976), in which a science fiction author dies during a fan convention and finds himself in Hell, where Benito Mussolini functions as his guide. They wrote a subsequent sequel to their own work, *Escape from Hell* (2009). [11]

• Gloria Naylor's *Linden Hills* (1985) uses Dante's *Inferno* as a model for the trek made by two young black poets who spend the days before Christmas doing odd jobs in an affluent African American community. The young men soon discover the price paid by the inhabitants of Linden Hills for pursuing the American dream. [12]

• Author Monique Wittig's *Virgile, Non* (published in English as *Across the Acheron*, 1985) is a lesbian–feminist retelling of the *Divine Comedy* set in the utopia/dystopia of second-wave feminism.

• Bret Easton Ellis's *American Psycho* (1991) begins with the words "Abandon all hope ye who enter here."

• The character of Beatrice in Lemony Snicket's *A Series of Unfortunate Events* is the deceased love of the narrator. She is an allusion to Beatrice Portinari.

• The main characters of Stephen King's *Wizard and Glass* (1997) have to cross a door within a building reminiscent of the palace of the Wizard from the film *The Wizard of Oz*: "The sign on this door wasn't from the movie, and only Susannah knew it was from Dante. Abandon hope, all ye who enter here, it said".

• Mark E. Rogers used the structure of Dante's hell in his 1998 comedic novel *Samurai Cat Goes to Hell* (the last book in the *Samurai Cat* series), and includes a gate to hell whose inscription reads "YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN / YOU'VE MADE YOUR BED / YOU'RE BOUND FOR HELL / NOW THAT YOU'RE DEAD / ABANDON ALL HOPE YE THAT ENTER HERE."

• Irish poet Seamus Heaney publishes a poem on the front page of the Irish Times (18 January 2000) that begins with a translation of *Paradiso* 33.58-61.

• *The Amber Spyglass* (2000) by Philip Pullman includes several references to Dante's vision of hell, including the concept of Harpies, an ascent along the flinty steps in the Eighth Circle of Hell (*Inferno*, Canto XXVI); and the two main characters emerging from their experience of hell back onto the earth to look at the stars (last line of *Inferno*).

• Nick Tosches's *In The Hand of Dante* (2002) weaves a contemporary tale about the finding of an original manuscript of the *Divine Comedy* with an imagined account of Dante's years composing the work.

• *Inferno* by Peter Weiss (written in 1964, published in 2003) is a play inspired by the *Comedy*, the first part of a planned trilogy.

• The *Dante Club* is a 2003 novel by Matthew Pearl that tells the story of various American poets translating *The Divine Comedy* in post-civil war Boston, who must also investigate murders being committed based on the punishments in the text, due to their desire to protect Dante's reputation and the fact that only they have the necessary expertise to understand the murderer's motivations.

• In 2004 and 2005, Giulio Leoni publishes two crime novels, *I delitti del mosaico* and *I delitti della luce* respectively, in which Dante is an investigator.

• Pope Benedict XVI has said that part of his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (2006), was inspired by Canto XXXIII of *Paradise*.

• In the novel *The Tenth Circle* (2006) by Jodi Picoult, the main character's comic strip, "The Tenth Circle," is based on the *Inferno*.

• Dante himself is a character in *The Master of Verona* (2007), a novel by David Blixt that combines the people of Dante's time with the characters of Shakespeare's Italian plays.

• Robert Penn Warren references Dante's Divine Comedy on the opening page of his novel *All the King's Men* with a line from Purgatory, III: *Mentre che la speranza ha fior del verde*, meaning "As long as hope still has its bit of..."
green."

- Paul Thigpen’s novel *My Visit to Hell* is an “extended parable” about hell in which he borrows “the moral topography of . . . Dante’s ‘Inferno.’” It is an adaptation of his earlier novel, *Gehenna*, published in 1992, and what Thigpen refers to as “the latest addition to a genre of such literature known as ‘tours of hell.’” His contemporary interpretation produces more impact with its explicit references to historical figures and issues reflective of today’s culture.

- S.A. Alenthony’s novel *The Infernova* is a parody of the *Inferno* as seen from an atheist’s perspective, with Mark Twain acting as the guide.


- Dan Brown’s new Robert Langdon thriller, "Inferno” was inspired by Dante’s *The Divine Comedy*. It was released on May 14, 2013.

**Movies and television**

(Also see Animations, comics and graphic novels)

**Films**

- The 1911 silent film, *L’Inferno*, was directed by Giuseppe de Liguoro, starred Salvatore Papa and released on DVD in 2004, with a soundtrack by Tangerine Dream.

- The 1924 silent film, *Dante’s Inferno*, directed by Henry Otto, features the 1911 film, *L’Inferno*.

- The 1935 motion picture, *Dante's Inferno* directed by Harry Lachman, written by Philip Klein, and starring Spencer Tracy, is about a fairground attraction based on *Inferno*. The film features a 10-minute fantasy sequence visualizing Dante's *Inferno*.

- The Swedish 1972 comedy *The Man Who Quit Smoking* (Mannen som slutade röka), directed by Tage Danielsson, is partly inspired by *The Divine Comedy*. For example, the main character is named Dante Alighieri and goes through a personal hell.

- Stan Brakhage’s eight-minute hand-painted film, *The Dante Quartet* (1987), is inspired by the *Divine Comedy*.


- In the 1990 film *Jacob's Ladder*, the film's namesake character can be seen reading through a compilation of The Divine Comedy during one scene.

- Krzysztof Kieslowski planned to create a new trilogy inspired by Dante's *The Divine Comedy* after finishing *The Three Colors Trilogy* (1993–1994). This intention, however, was abandoned after his death in 1996 until Tom Tykwer decided to shoot the film *Heaven* in 2002, using Kieslowski's original screenplay. In 2005, Bosnian director Danis Tanović directed *L'Enfer (Hell)* based on Kieslowski's screenplay sketches. The screenplay was completed by Krzysztof Piesiewicz, Kieslowski's screenwriter.

- The motion picture *Se7en* (1995) stars Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman as two detectives who investigate a series of ritualistic murders inspired by the seven deadly sins. This film makes many references to Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

- *Liar Liar* (1997) has the character Fletcher Reed describe himself as descending into the seventh circle of Hell, which is the circle of self-inflicted pain.


- Jean-Luc Godard's 2004 film *Notre musique* is structured in three parts, Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise respectively, alluding to the *Divine Comedy*.

- In 2005, Captain Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, references the 9th circle of hell when speaking to Barbossa's cursed pirates.
• The first scene of the movie Clerks II (2006) is titled "Dante's Inferno".
• In the movie 300 (2007), Ephialtes of Trachis is the Greek that betrays the Spartans to their doom. Ephialtes is also the name of one of the Giants guarding the 9th circle of Hell — Treachery. Ephialtes being a historical figure, however, this is probably a coincidence.
• The film Dante's Inferno (2007) is based on Sandow Birk's contemporary drawings of the Divine Comedy. The film accurately retells the original story, but with the addition of more recent residents of Hell such as Adolf Hitler and Boss Tweed.
• In the movie The Bucket List, businessman Edward Cole (Jack Nicholson) asks if his employees have ever read the Divine Comedy during a board meeting.
• In the movie Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009), Buck warns the troupe, "Abandon hope, ye who enter here!"
• The film Pandorum (2009) makes several allusions to The Divine Comedy.
• The short documentary Dante's Inferno — Abandon All Hope[^13] (2010) is based on Gustave Dore's lithographs of the Divine Comedy and the 1911 silent film, L'Inferno.
• A 3D live-action film trilogy based on the three parts of the Divine Comedy produced by a company known as Master Films Productions is in the works. It is directed by Boris Acosta[^14], and involves people who've worked on films such as The Lord of the Rings.

**Television**

• Ted Mosby from How I Met Your Mother (2010) recites part of the Divine Comedy in episode 22 of the 5th season.
• Various episodes of Mad Men refer to Dante's levels of Purgatory and Hell:
  - When Don and Betty separate, Don moves to a furnished apartment on "Waverly and Sixth" (as he tells the cab driver in the Season 4 episode, "The Summer Man"). In "The Summer Man", Don works to curtail his alcoholism, which according to the Purgatorio, would place him on the sixth terrace, reserved for the gluttonous who over-emphasized food, drink, and bodily comforts.[^15]
  - Mad Men's season six premiere, "The Doorway", features Don Draper reading The Inferno while lying on a Hawaiian beach with his wife. It is later shown the book was given to him by a woman with whom Don is having an affair (the wife of his friend and downstairs neighbor, Dr. Rosen).
• The 2005 BBC drama series Messiah IV: The Harrowing focuses on a serial killer who takes inspiration from Inferno to punish his or her victims.
• Various episodes of The Sopranos refer to the Dante's circles of Hell. For example:
  - In "Whoever Did This" (2002), a TV journalist reports how a boom microphone accidentally knocked Uncle Junior down "nine, no seven" steps at the courthouse where Junior's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act trial was being held.
  - In "Join the Club" (2006), Tony has a recurring coma-dream in which he checks into Room 728 (i.e., level seven) at the Omni hotel in Costa Mesa, using the identity of non-mafia civilian Kevin Finnerty. When the hotel elevator is out of commission, Tony descends a red staircase, slips, and falls to level five. Tony's surgeon, Dr. Plepler, tells Tony's wife, sisters and daughter they're lucky Tony's at a Level 1 trauma center. (Level one is Limbo).
Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy in popular culture

Music

• In Claudio Monteverdi's 1607 opera L'Orfeo, the title character is bombarded with the famous line "Lasciate ogni speranza voi ch'entrate" as he attempts to enter the underworld.

• Franz Liszt's Symphony to Dante's Divina Commedia (completed 1856) has two movements: "Inferno" and "Purgatorio." A concluding "Magnificat" is included at the end of the "Purgatorio" movement and replaces the planned third movement, which was to be called "Paradiso" (Liszt was dissuaded by Richard Wagner from his original plan). Liszt also composed a Dante Sonata (started 1837, completed 1849).

• Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky's 1876 Francesca da Rimini (subtitled "Symphonic Fantasy After Dante") is a symphonic poem based on an episode in the fifth canto of the Inferno.

• Giacomo Puccini's 1918 one-act opera Gianni Schicchi is drawn from a brief reference to the title character in the Inferno.

• The name of the early 80s Minimal Electronic band Nine Circles originates from Dante's "Nine Circles of Hell".

• F.M. Einheit of Einstürzende Neubauten and Andreas Ammer collaborated on an experimental recording called Radio Inferno, a radio play adaptation of the Comedy.

• Tangerine Dream has released albums setting all the three parts of The Divine Comedy to music: Inferno is a recording of a live performance at the St Marien zu Bernau Cathedral in 2001, and Purgatorio is a studio album from 2004.

• The band STYX is named after the river of death found in Greek mythology and in Dante's Inferno.

• Folk singer Loreena McKennitt's song "Dante's Prayer", the final track on her 1997 album The Book of Secrets, is based on Dante's work.

• Canadian post-rock group …as the Poets Affirm took their name from a passage in the Inferno.

• Asaki's first album, Shinkyoku, is also the name of the Comedy in Japanese Kanji.

• The Bright River is a hip-hop retelling of the Inferno by a traditional storyteller, Tim Barsky, with a live soundtrack performed by hip-hop and klezmer musicians.

• In Weezer's album Make Believe, released May 10, 2005, there is hidden text in the pictures. The text reads "Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita".

• The song "Roll Right" on the album Evil Empire by Rage Against the Machine contains the refrain 'Send 'em to the seventh level!' referencing the seventh circle (or level) of Hell, where the violent are held.

• German Dark Electro band yelworC has made two albums of a trilogy based on the three canticas of the Divine Comedy, so far 'Trinity' and 'Icolation'.

• Australian goth-electro band The Tenth Stage has a self-titled track (2006) that describes the singers descent past the nine stages of Dante's poem to a 10th stage of Hell.

• Technical death metal guitarist Fredrik Thordendal (from the Swedish Death metal band Meshuggah) used quotes from the Divine Comedy in the song "Dante's Wild Inferno" from his solo album Sol Niger Within.

• The song "Canto IV (Limbo)" from Progressive music group Discipline's album Unfolded Like Staircase describes the sorrow of those souls whose never knew a deity.

• New Jersey band The Gaslight Anthem referenced the Comedy in their song "The Navesink Banks" from the album Sink or Swim with the opening line, "All hope abandoned, ye who enter here".

• Italian progressive rock band Metamorfosi has released two concept albums based on the Divine Comedy, Inferno (in 1972) and Paradiso (2004).

• Dante's work provided a name for the Irish band The Divine Comedy (1989).

• The video for Depeche Mode song "Walking In My Shoes" (1993), directed by Anton Corbijn, was inspired by the Comedy.

• Milla Jovovich's 1994 debut album was called The Divine Comedy.

• Metal band Iced Earth's album Burnt Offerings (1995) contains the epic song "Dante's Inferno."

• Zao refer to the Divine Comedy on their 1999 album *Liberate Te Ex Inferis*, covering the first five circles of the Inferno.
• Punk singer Mike Watt’s third solo album, *The Secondman's Middle Stand* (2004), is a concept album that derives its structure from *The Divine Comedy*.
• The first song on metal band Decadence’s debut album (2005), “Wrathfull and Sullen”, is inspired by the fifth level of Hell.
• Robert W. Smith’s *The Divine Comedy* (CD, 2006) is a four-movement symphony for wind ensemble that depicts four stages of Dante’s journey in a tone poem-like symphonic structure. The movements are “The Inferno”, “Purgatorio”, “The Ascension”, and “Paradiso.”
• Indie band Murder By Death’s album *In Bocca al Lupo* (2006) is a concept album partially based on the poem.
• Thrash metal band Sepultura’s tenth album, *Dante XXI* (2006), is based entirely on *The Divine Comedy*.
• Professor Fate’s album *Inferno* (2007) was inspired by the *Comedy*.
• Finnish rock band HIM released Venus Doom (2007) of which all 9 songs represent the 9 circles of hell.
• Dutch composer Louis Andriessen’s 2008 film opera in five parts *La Commedia* incorporates texts from Vondel and the Old Testament, in addition to *The Divine Comedy*. The 5 parts are ”The City of Dis, or The Ship of Fools”, ”Racconto dall’Inferno”, ”Lucifer”, ”The Garden of Delights”, and ”Luce Etterna”.
• The Finnish progressive rock magazine *Colossus* and Musea records produced three multi-disc boxsets dedicated to each of the canticas of the *Divine Comedy* - *Inferno* (2008), *Purgatorio* (2009) and *Paradiso* (2010) - with the participation of several bands such as Yesterdays, Little Tragedies, Nathan Mahl and Phideaux.
• On his album ”Human the Death Dance” (2007) American underground hip-hop artist Sage Francis uses stanzas from Dante's Inferno sung in Italian during the chorus of the song "Black Out on White Night".
• In Green Day's Album 21st century breakdown there is a song called Christian's Inferno that depicts one of the protagonists of the album doing the same as Dante.
• Austrian gothic metal band Dreams of Sanity's album *Komödia* is partially based on *The Divine Comedy*.
• American hardcore punk band AFI has a song on their fourth album whose chorus uses a line from the Inferno: ”Beyond and to all time I stand”.
• American post-hardcore band Alesana's fourth album, A Place Where the Sun Is Silent is primarily based on the Inferno.
• Mexican death metal band Transmetal released *El Infierno de Dante* in 1993. It was also released as *Dante's Inferno* in an English version of the album.
• Laudi alla Vergine Maria is Movement 3, for women’s voices, of Giuseppe Verdi’s Quattro Pezzi Sacri (Four Sacred Pieces [17], 1888). The text is taken from the opening lines of Canto 33 [18] of Paradiso.
• Italian power metal band Luca Turilli’s Rhapsody’s first album Ascending to Infinity has a song called Dante’s Inferno.
• British rapper and saxophonist Soweto Kinch's album The Legend of Mike Smith is based on Dante's Inferno and has a track named after each of the 9 circles of hell.

Radio shows

In the fourth series of *Bleak Expectations*, the second episode spoofs Dante's Inferno. The underworld is depicted as a resting place for all souls before they enter their respective heavens or hells. Pip is guided through the underworld by Virgil Grimpunch when he goes there to bring her soul back after going into a near death experience while in Parliament. He finds her in Elysium with Achilles.

*Inferno Revisited*, a modernised interpretation of Dante written by Peter Howell, was first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 17 April 1983.
Sculpture

- Auguste Rodin's sculptural group, *The Gates of Hell*, draws heavily on the *Inferno*. The component sculpture, *Paolo and Francesca*, represents Francesca da Rimini and Paolo Malatesta, whom Dante meets in Canto 5. The version of this sculpture known as *The Kiss* shows the book that Paolo and Francesca were reading. Other component sculptures include *Ugolino and his children* (Canto 33) and *The Shades*, who originally pointed to the phrase "Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch'intrate" ("Abandon all hope, ye who enter here") from Canto 3. Sculptures of *Grief* and *Despair* cannot be assigned to particular sections of the *Inferno*, but are in keeping with the overall theme. The famous component sculpture *The Thinker*, near the top of the gate, represents Dante himself. Like *The Kiss*, it was also produced as an independent work.

Visual arts

- Giovanni di Paolo illuminated in 1441 Dante's *Paradiso*.
- Sandro Botticelli made the most famous set of illustrations during the Renaissance for a manuscript of the *Divine Comedy* commissioned by Lorenzo Pierfrancesco de' Medici; Botticelli also designed a series of illustrations for the 1481 edition of the poem. Another interesting series was done by Stradanus.
- Giovanni Britto illuminated a commentary "La Comedia di Dante Alighieri con la nova esposizione" written by Alessandro Vellutello and printed in 1544 by Francesco Marcolini.
- John Flaxman's illustrations were influential across Europe in the Eighteenth century because of their radically minimalist style.
Eugène Delacroix made his name with The Barque of Dante (1822), a painting depicting Dante and Virgil crossing the river Styx.

Before his death in 1827, William Blake, the English poet and painter, planned and executed several watercolour illustrations to the Divine Comedy, including The Wood of the Self-Murderers: The Harpies and the Suicides. Though he did not finish the series before his death, they remain a highly powerful visual interpretation of the poem.

Joseph Anton Koch illustrated Dante's Divine Comedy and painted in the period 1824-1829 the four frescoes in the Dante Room of the Villa Massimi.

William-Adolphe Bouguereau, the prolific 19th century academic artist, painted "Dante And Virgil In Hell" in 1850.

Dante Gabriel Rossetti's Dante's Vision of Rachel and Leah (1855) references Dante's dream in Purgatorio XXVII.

Pre-Raphaelite and Victorian British paintings relating to Dante include: Dante and Beatrice (1884) by Henry Holiday; Dante's Dream (1871) and Beata Beatrix (1872), both by Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

Gustave Doré made the most famous illustrations in the 19th century.

Franz von Bayros, mainly known for his erotic drawings, illustrated a 1921 edition.

Salvador Dalí made a series of prints for the Comedy in 1950-51 [19].

Jennifer Strange's collection of drawings and sculpture titled Inspired by Dante [20]; an artist's journey through the Divine Comedy is a contemporary collection of works that have been exhibited in the United States and Italy. Online image gallery with text, translation and commentary.

British artist Tom Phillips illustrated his own translation of the Inferno, published in 1985, with four illustrations per canto.

Grabá made a cycle "La Divina Commedia" consisting of 111 paintings in 2003 exhibited in the Art Hall Sint-Pietersabdij in Ghent.

British artist Guy Denning's on line Dante project follows on from his exhibition of his Inferno paintings in Bologna in 2011. [21]


Miscellaneous

Asteroid 2999 Dante is named after the poet, as is a lunar crater.

Dante Alighieri Academy - a publicly funded Catholic high school in Toronto, Ontario.

Shortly after the launch of the Google Plus social, McSweeney's published a piece called "Dante Alighieri's Google+ Circles"

Notes

[10] "Preface to the first edition"
Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy in popular culture

[12] David Wallace, "Dante in English," in
[16] "Abandon hope all ye who enter"

Further reading


External links

- Dante Today: Citings and Sightings of Dante's Works in Contemporary Culture (http://learn.bowdoin.edu/italian/dante/). A website designed to archive occurrences of Dante and his works in popular and contemporary culture of the twentieth century and beyond.
- (https://www.facebook.com/Worldofdante?fref=ts). The Facebook page for The World of Dante (www.worldofdante.org), this page allows everyone to post on current topics related to Dante in contemporary culture and media and in current scholarship.
- The blog Italy Today with Dante offers commentary on contemporary Italian and American society through the lens of Dante's poem. (http://italytodaywithdante.blogspot.it)
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