

Purgatorio, Cantos XIII–XXIV

Cantos 13–14, The Terrace of Envy (Since in life the envious rejoiced in seeing others' misfortune, these penitents are now blinded, their eyes sewn shut with wire.)

Sapia (13.100–154)

Sapia rejoiced to see the defeat of her fellow citizens (Ghibellines from Siena). She now puns on her name in recognition of her foolishness; despite her name, Sapia, she was not wise (*savia*).

Guido del Duca and Rinieri da Calboli (14.1–126)

Two prominent Italians, Guido presents Rinieri as an example of a good family gone bad. Guido tells Dante his grandson will attack Dante's party (the White Guelfs) in Florence.

Examples of Love and Envy (13.28–36, 14.130–139)

Mary at Cana; Orestes; Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount

Cain; Aglauros

Dante's Pride (13.133–138, 14.21)

Here Dante admits he already feels the weight of rocks used to flatten the pride of penitents on the first terrace, explicitly admitting the pride we've seen him display previously in the poem.

Cantos 15–16, The Terrace of Wrath (Souls purging themselves of wrath are forced to walk through thick acrid smoke that is darker than night, seeing hallucinatory visions of meekness (the virtue opposite to wrath) and wrath itself.)

Marco Lombardo (16.46–129)

Marco Lombardo says Rome used to possess "two suns," one showing the world's path and the other God's path, but now the two are sadly joined. He also explains that, while the heavens influence human desires, individuals have free will and are responsible for their actions.

Examples of Gentleness and Wrath (15.85–117, 17.19–39)

Mary finding Jesus in the Temple; Pisistratus; St. Stephen

Procne; Haman; Amata

Cantos 17–18, The Terrace of Sloth (Sloth describes a tepid pursuit of virtue. Penitents now run around the terrace, shouting famous examples of slothful behavior and its contrary virtue (decisive zeal) as they go along.)

Examples of Zeal and Sloth (18.97–102, 130–138)

Mary rushes to Elizabeth after the Annunciation; Julius Caesar

Moses' complaining followers; the Trojans who abandoned Aeneas to stay in Sicily

Moral Structure of Purgatory (17.91–139)

Virgil explains to Dante the moral structure of the mountain. Love, Virgil says, is the

“seed” of all human acts: insufficient or lax love of the good = sloth; love directed toward an evil object or goal = pride, envy, wrath; excessive love of what is inherently good = greed, gluttony, lust.

Cantos 19–21, The Terrace of Avarice and Prodigality (Penitents here purify themselves by lying face-down on the hard rock floor. Weeping and praying, they themselves call out the examples of greed and its opposing virtue (generosity).)

Pope Adrian V (19.88–145)

Pope Adrian V explains how this is fitting punishment for neglect of spiritual matters.

The first saved pope we've seen tells his visitor not to kneel because they are now equals before God.

Statius (21 and 22)

1st-c. Roman poet. Done with his time, Statius will accompany Dante and Virgil the rest of the way up the mountain.

Examples of Poverty and Avarice (20.19–33, 103–117)

Mary's poverty; Gaius Fabricius Luscinus; St. Nicholas

Pygmalion; Midas; Achan; Sapphira & Ananias; Heliodorus; Polymnestor; Marcus Licinius Crassus

Cantos 22–24, The Terrace of Gluttony (Penitents of the sin of gluttony now suffer so much hunger and thirst that their sunken eyes and thin face make the shape “OMO” (a play on *uomo*, Italian for “man”).)

Forese Donati (23.37–117, 24.7–27, 70–97)

A childhood friend of Dante in Florence and a relative of Dante's wife (Gemma Donati), he died in 1296. Forese looks back on his wild past with sorrow.

Bonagiunta da Lucca (24.19–63)

Bonagiunta, a poet, came from the Tuscan city of Lucca (born c. 1220). He heaps praise on Dante.

Examples of Temperance and Gluttony (22.142–154, 24.121–126)

Mary at Cana; Roman women who drank water instead of wine; Daniel; John the Baptist
Centaur; Gideon's men

So...

Does the structure of Purgatory look at all similar to the organization of Hell? Why do you think it's so important for Dante to explain the precise order of these realms?