

DanteDi



Dante

Italian poet, prose writer, literary theorist, moral philosopher, and political thinker. He is known as the “Supreme poet” and as the “Father of Italian literature”, but his *Divine Comedy* is also a masterpiece all over the world.

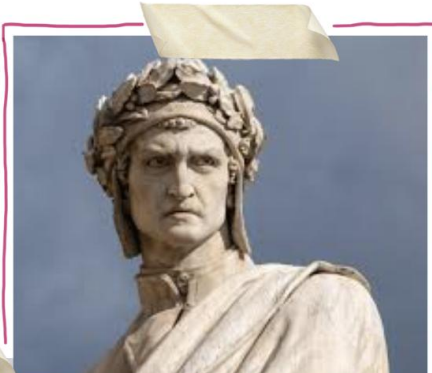
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Life

Durante di Alighiero degli Alighieri, worldwide known just as Dante, was born in Florence and although there is no exact date reported, his birth is generally believed to be around 1265, year that was deduced from some autobiographical allusion in the *Divine Comedy*.

Together with literature and writing, Dante's life was mainly dedicated to the struggle against the Ghibellines, people who supported the emperor against the pope, and that Dante disagreed with.



Ravenna

Because of the political issues among Guelphs and Ghibellines, in 1302 Dante was condemned to exile for at least two years and to pay a large fine; he was accused of corruption during his time as city prior in 1300. Since he did not pay the fine, he was condemned to perpetual exile and, if he returned to Florence without paying, he would have been burnt at the stake. After frequent movings, in 1318 Dante was invited to spend some time in Ravenna by its prince Guido II da Polenta.



Ravenna



On 14th September 1321, after contracting malaria while returning from a diplomatic mission in Venice, Dante died in Ravenna. By that time he was 56 and had three children. He was first buried in Basilica di San Francesco, but in 1483 Bernardo Bembo, praetor of Venice, erected a tomb for him nearby, so his bones were moved there.

Ravenna

To symbolize the eternal glory and fame of Dante, together with the footprint he left on Ravenna, some years ago the Brazilian street artist Kobra realized a big mural in the centre of the city, representing a colourful profile of the poet. It is quite impressive, and it shows how the greatness of Dante is known worldwide.



Ravenna

Even the pine forest near Classe is a symbol of Dante: it was, indeed, the inspiration for the heaven on earth in the paradise section of the Divine Comedy. There's also the famous oak wood that Dante turns into the "Divine forest".



Ravenna

There are a lot of other places all over Ravenna that had influenced Dante to write some of his chants, or that somehow are a symbol of his greatness and importance:

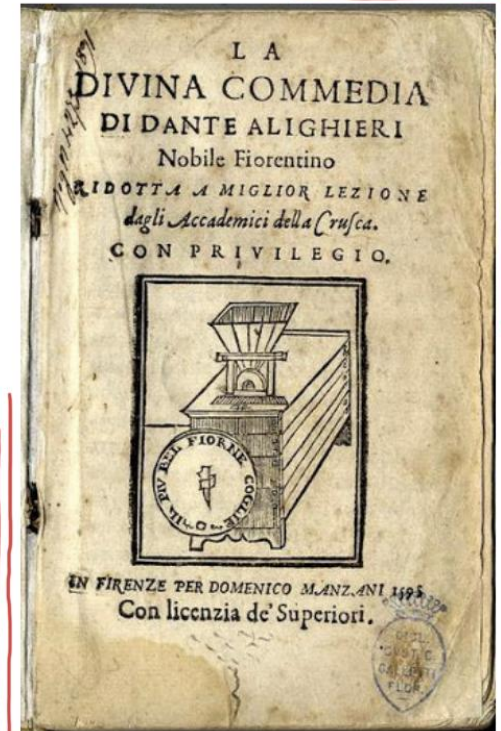
1. Palazzo Rasponi (da Polenta's palace)
2. Santo Stefano degli Ulivi's convent
3. Polentani's house (Dante imagined to meet Francesca da Polenta there)
4. Basilica of Sant'Apollinare
5. San Vitale
6. Galla Placidia mausoleum
7. San Francesco basilica



The Divine Comedy

The Divine Comedy is an instructive poem based on an allegory, written in vulgar Florentine in interlocked-hendecasyllabic tercets. It talks about an imaginary travel through the three kingdoms of the afterlife, that are also the three songs the poem is split into.

Dante says that he goes on this travel on the Spring equinox in the year 1300, guided by the poet Virgilio. The Comedy can be considered also as a universal travel that has the purpose to move the whole humanity from a mere state of misery to the one of pure happiness.



26th chant of Purgatory

The 26th chant of Purgatory takes place in the seventh frame, where lusty souls expiate their sins. There, the two poets meet hundreds of souls asking Dante about the nature of his body. Indeed, despite the place he is visiting, his body still remains real, made of blood and bones. After explaining them his story, Dante has a conversation with the souls of two great poets of his past.





THANKS FOR LISTENING!
JOIN US ON 1st JUNE 2021 FOR THE READING
OF THE 26th CHANT OF PURGATORY

MARIA FIAMMENGHI, ANASTASIA FIRMANI, ALBA ROSETTI
CLASSE 2A LICEO SCIENTIFICO
A. ORIANI RAVENNA

