



# **Purgatorio: The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, Vol. 2**

*Robert M. Durling*

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In the early 1300s, Dante Alighieri set out to write the three volumes which make up *The Divine Comedy*. *Purgatorio* is the second volume in this set and opens with Dante the poet picturing Dante the pilgrim coming out of the pit of hell. Similar to the *Inferno* (34 cantos), this volume is divided into 33 cantos, written in tercets (groups of 3 lines). The English prose is arranged in tercets to facilitate easy correspondence to the verse form of the Italian on the facing page, enabling the reader to follow both languages line by line. In an effort to capture the peculiarities of Dante's original language, this translation strives toward the literal and sheds new light on the shape of the poem. Again the text of *Purgatorio* follows Petrocchi's *La Commedia secondo l'antica vulgata*, but the editor has departed from Petrocchi's readings in a number of cases, somewhat larger than in the previous *Inferno*, not without consideration of recent critical readings of the *Comedy* by scholars such as Lanza (1995, 1997) and Sanguineti (2001). As before, Petrocchi's punctuation has been lightened and American norms have been followed. However, without any pretensions to being "critical", the text presented here is eclectic and being not persuaded of the exclusive authority of any manuscript, the editor has felt free to adopt readings from various branches of the stemma. One major addition to this second volume is in the notes, where is found the *Intercantica* - a section for each canto that discusses its relation to the *Inferno* and which will make it easier for the reader to relate the different parts of the *Comedy* as a whole.

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