



The Poetics of Dante's Paradiso

Massimo Verdicchio

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Paradiso, the conclusion to Dante Alighieri's masterpiece, the *Divine Comedy*, is an exploration of the nine celestial spheres of Heaven. A highly original and comprehensive reading, *The Poetics of Dante's Paradiso* challenges established scholarly interpretations to demonstrate that the intricacies of Dante's text reveal a subtle irony, employed to deliver a sharp critique of the corrupt church and empire of his own time.

Massimo Verdicchio's canto-by-canto analysis focuses on the subversive undercurrents created by poetic allegory and irony and relates Dante's ordering of the heavens to the Arts and Sciences of the Trivium and Quadrivium (the major subjects taught at medieval universities). This new reading highlights Dante's use of language to expose the earthly flaws of the saints and denounce the illicit and destructive alliance between the House of Anjou and the church. *The Poetics of Dante's Paradiso* is thought-provoking, tenacious, and sure to stimulate discussion amongst all students of the *Commedia*.

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