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Love in Hell

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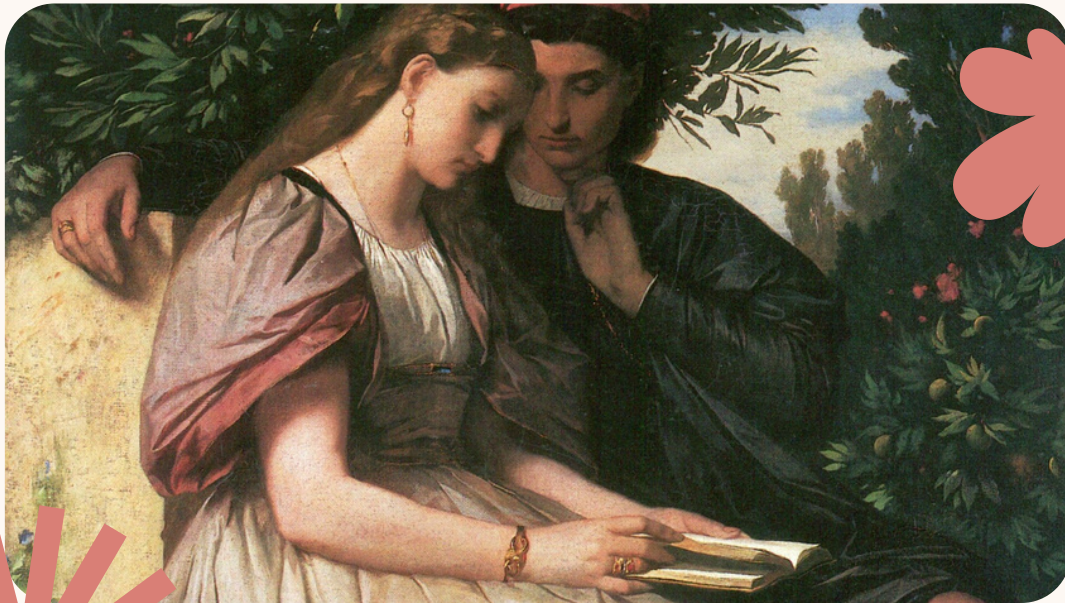
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LOVE FUELS HELL

An Exploration of Love in Hell



Francesca da Rimini and Paolo Malatesta by Anselm Feuerbach

Ted Talk : Canto V

Have you ever found yourself daydreaming about a forbidden love? A Romeo and Juliet type of love? You know the story - star crossed lovers and opposing families. What about realizing that you are in love with your brother-in-law whilst reading together, having an affair, then being brutally murdered by your actual husband? Okay, maybe not the last one. However, that describes the story of Francesca and Paolo in Canto V of Dante's *Inferno*.

Click this link to watch a Ted Talk discussing a summary and an analysis of Canto V and learn more about the story of Francesca and Paolo.

<https://flipgrid.com/s/dRBMqVyMD5Mn>



Dante Meditating the Episode of Francesca da Rimini and Paolo Malatesta
Joseph Noel Paton (1821-1901)
Bury Art Museum

"LOVE LED US ON TO DEATH" - FRANCESCA DI RIMINI (LINE 100, CANTO V)



CHARACTER PROFILE

A closer look at Francesca di Rimini

Francesca and Paolo appraised by Dante and Virgil, by Ary Scheffer, 1835

Name: Francesca da Rimini

Nickname: Francesca, i tuoi matiri (Francesca, your sufferings)

Famous Quote: "There is no greater pain than to remember the happy time in wretchedness" (Line 121)

Known for: Being an engaging storyteller, passionate lover, and being oblivious to her own faults

Previous Appearances: Canto V: Circle 2 - the Lustful; arranged marriage to Gianciotto for a political alliance

Representation: Dante represents her as "less reducible and linear than his commentators find acceptable"; She blames others for her behavior; she represents the problems with impulse and will power; Dante believes that desire can be withstood, while he shows Francesca with the belief that it cannot. This separates her from Dante and explains why Francesca is in hell

Trivia: She was the aunt of Guido Novello da Polenta, who was Dante's host in Ravenna during the last years of his life in exile

"Love led us on to one death"
- Francesca di Rimini (Line 106, Canto)

LETTURA DANTIS

Summary & Analysis of Purgatorio 30

This canto opens with people facing a chariot. There is a crowd of angels singing, and a woman appears, wearing a white veil, green robe, and red dress. Dante becomes scared and looks to Virgil, however, he is not there. He begins to weep for Virgil, but the woman speaks to him. Dante realizes that it is Beatrice. She tells him everyone is happy here, why should he climb the mountain of Purgatory and weep? Beatrice then talks to the angels and explains Dante's grief and guilt are coming to the surface. When Beatrice was alive, she was able to lead Dante down the right path. However, when she died, he got lost and began to live a life filled with sin. First, Beatrice tried to pray for Dante, but when nothing changed, she asked God to grant Dante his trip through the afterlife. Then, he would truly be able to see what happens to people who live a sinful life.



Beatrice - Gustave Dore



Gustave Doré - Dante Alighieri - Inferno - Plate 7 (Beatrice)

This canto reveals a lot to the reader. We finally learn the reason why Dante has been allowed to go through this journey through the afterlife. It also shows many of the faults that Dante experienced in his own life after Beatrice died. He had been going down the wrong path. Referencing Canto I, he found himself lost in a dark wood. Because of Beatrice, Dante was granted this second chance to see what happens to the souls that die with sin. This Canto also highlights the themes of pure love. Dante senses, "the ancient power" as he is about to meet Beatrice and enter Paradiso. Dante is finally able to meet his great love, Beatrice, after she had died 10 years prior to when the poem takes place in 1300. Part of his desire for Beatrice's love is his desire for God's pure and divine love. Beatrice is going to lead him to God, allowing him to be in his truly divine presence. He realizes that he is going to face this pure love.

Conversation with Dante in our Time

The Rise of Hatred and the Need for Repentance



Posthumous portrait in tempera
by Sandro Botticelli, 1495

People have been turning away from what Dante would call "God's pure love". Although I am not a religious person nor do I believe in God, I do believe in the values of having good morals and just being a good person for the sake of being a good person. Many people today are fueled by hatred. Since the 2016 election, there has been a rise in an outward voice of hatred within the United States. Political leaders had set an example of spreading hatred across the country and gave a voice to those who believe in harmful ideas about many underprivileged groups that are a part of our community. In the face of true love I believe that Dante would want us to recognize our sin.

In Purgatorio 30, he is faced with Beatrice and is coming very close to being in the presence of God's pure love. He breaks down and begins to cry, his feelings of guilt overwhelming him, as Beatrice explains his faults. This is why Dante was put onto his journey. He had become lost in his life of sin and was having trouble escaping it. Beatrice had prayed for him and ultimately begged God to allow him to journey through L'Inferno in hopes that he will change. I believe that this reflects the importance of inner transformations. The Commedia is a story of journeying through grief and emerging a changed person. This shows the importance of forgiveness and the act of second chances. The Commedia shows through Purgatorio that there are ways to redeem oneself for their sins. If they show awareness and understand the consequences of their actions, they are offered a chance at redemption.

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