

# The Divine Comedy



Dante Alighieri

*The Divine Comedy* (Italian: *Commedia*, later christened “Divina” by Giovanni Boccaccio), written by Dante Alighieri between 1308 and his death in 1321, is widely considered the central epic poem of Italian literature, the last great work of literature of the Middle Ages and the first great work of the Renaissance. A culmination of the medieval world-view of the afterlife, it establishes the Tuscan dialect in which it is written as the Italian standard, and is seen as one of the greatest works of world literature.

*The Divine Comedy* is composed of three *canticas* (or “cantiche”) — *Inferno* (Hell), *Purgatorio* (Purgatory), and *Paradiso* (Paradise) — composed each of 33 cantos (or “canti”). The very first canto serves as an introduction to the poem and is generally not considered to be part of the first cantica, bringing the total number of cantos to 100.

The poet tells in the first person his travel through the three realms of the dead, lasting during the Easter Triduum in the spring of 1300.

(Summary from Wikipedia)

**Read by Cori Samuel, Annie Coleman, Denny Sayers, Jennifer Crispin, Anne’s Man and Thomas’ Dad and Hugh McGuire, Aaron Decker, Marlo Dianne, Catherine Eastman, Kirsten Ferreri, Kelly Bescherer, David Barnes, David Leaman, Rosalind Wills, JemmaBlythe and Christie Nowak . Total running time: 12:23:25**

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