

Canto XIV:

Questions:

- Given that most of the blessed souls Dante has encountered so far in *Paradiso* have been composed of light, the pilgrim wonders whether the light will remain at the resurrection of the body (14.13ff). How does Solomon answer (14.37-60)?

- What is the relationship between the blessed's love and their luminosity (14.37-42)? What is the relationship between light and sight (14.49-57)? How are all of these related to grace?

- Why do the blessed desire their bodies (14.61-66)? Why is it both fitting and important for the souls of the wise to look forward to the resurrection of the body? Will the resurrected body diminish the soul's love, sight, light, and grace?

- What is the arrangement of the souls in Mars? Why? How do the souls make Christ present in Mars? Why might Dante only rhyme "Christ" with itself? Why might Dante choose to invoke the crucifixion of Christ *after* he has invoked the resurrection of Christ?

- In his *Convivio*, Dante associates the Sun with the liberal art of geometry and Mars with arithmetic. Do we see those liberal arts reflected at all in these Solar and Martian episodes?

Canto XV:

Questions:

- In the heaven of Mars Dante meets crusaders and righteous warriors, likening them to the martyrs. What do you think of this comparison? Does it still work in a contemporary Christian context? Is Dante ultimately celebrating war and violence or is he celebrating peace?

- Dante's main conversation partner in the heaven of Mars is his great-great-grandfather, Cacciaguida. Why might Dante choose to give us a father-son dynamic at this point in *Paradiso* (think back to *Inferno* 15)?

- Dante likens his meeting with Cacciaguida with Aeneas meeting his father Anchises from Virgil's *Aeneid*. Cacciaguida's first words to Dante are all in Latin, another suggestion of Virgil's influence. Why might Dante want us to associate Cacciaguida and Virgil with each other? How does this recall the way that Virgil fathered Dante's moral and growth in the beginning of the *Comedy*?

- What are Cacciaguida's first words that Dante can understand (15.46-48)? How do these words tie the spiritual *and* personal journeys of Dante together?