

Canto XVII:

Questions:

- Dante asks Cacciaguida to explain the prophecies about his future that he heard in *Inferno* and *Purgatorio*. Now it is time for Dante to learn of his impending exile. Why is it fitting for Cacciaguida to be the one to inform Dante of his future rather than Beatrice or Virgil?

- Who is responsible for Dante's exile (17.49-51)? How will Dante experience the pains of exile (17.57-72)?

- (g) Why does Cacciaguida warn Dante against being envious of his enemies in Florence (17.97)? Why would envy be so spiritually dangerous for Dante in a time of personal suffering? How does envy threaten the spiritual good that we often face in life? Based on your reading of the *Comedy* so far, has Dante been successful in his "foreswearing all envy" of his enemies?

- How is Dante to use his exile both to the glory of God and for the salvation of his enemies (112-142)?

- The episode with Cacciaguida ends on something of a comment on the purpose of Dante's pilgrimage. Why has Dante been entrusted with this journey through the afterlife beyond his own spiritual benefit? Why has he been shown so many famous figures in the course of his pilgrimage so far? What effect will Dante's words (i.e. the *Comedy*) have on its readers?

Canto XVIII:

Questions:

- How does Dante understand Beatrice's eyes in relation to the beauty of paradise (18.13-21)? Why does Beatrice insist that Dante witness Paradise outside of her eyes?
- How can someone tell that they are growing in virtue (58-60)?
- How do the souls at Jupiter arrange themselves (18.88-99)? What virtue is represented in this heaven? Why does Dante depict this virtue with an eagle (18.106ff)?
- LOVE JUSTICE YOU WHO GOVERN THE EARTH (18.91-93). Why do you think that the love of justice is so important for proper governing?

- What does Dante mean when he says “Now wars are fought withholding here and there the bread our loving Father keeps from none” (18.128-129)? How might this be related to justice?