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*“There is no need to wonder if I smile,”*

*she said, “because you reason like a child;*

*your steps do not yet rest upon the truth;*

*your mind misguides you into emptiness:*

*what you are seeing are true substances,*

*placed here because their vows were not fulfilled.*

*Thus, speak and listen; trust what they will say:*

*the truthful light in which they find their peace*

*will not allow their steps to turn astray.”*

-Paradiso, Canto 3, Dante Aglihiere

Canto 3 of Paradiso depicts Dante and Beatrice entering the area of Paradiso where those who haven't been able to fulfill their vows, which in the case of the Divine Comedy, is called the moon. The moon is referred to as inconstant, and it reflects those who reside in this lowest layer of heaven, those who could not maintain their vows despite their undying faith.

However, it should be acknowledged that Beatrice notes that, despite them being unable to maintain their vows, Dante should still listen to what they have to say, since despite their lack

in fortitude, they were still faithful until the end, and their faith and righteousness was recognized by their placement in Paradiso rather than in Purgatorio or Inferno.

Another part of the language to note is how the “light in which they find their peace will not allow their steps to turn astray”. This choice of words fittingly parallels the moon; the moon, while always in motion, always orbits the earth without ever deviating from its path. This perfectly captures the spirits in this layer of Paradiso, as they still have their faith towards God, and even though they were inconsistent about it, they never strayed from their path.

Ultimately, this passage notes how most people would be in Heaven, not completely consistent in their faith, but faithful and righteous enough that they still stand in God’s light and keep moving, their perpetual movement almost reflective of the eternal determination that mankind shares.