

Christopher Green

Prof. Stubbs

Global Literature I

4/6/2023

Dante's Paradiso Summary

In the beginning of this part of Dante's divine comedy, Dante is entering paradise after leaving purgatory. Dante asks Apollo and the Muses for his divine tasks before ascending to heaven. Dante and his guide Beatrice ascend to heaven. There are a total of nine spheres of heaven in Dante's Paradiso; Moon, Mercury, Venus, the Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, the Fixed Stars, and the Primum Mobile. These spheres are associated by Dante with the nine levels of the angelic hierarchy. The first sphere of heaven, Moon houses people who broke their vows. Beatrice explains that it is people who broke vows unwillingly and that is why they are still in heaven. The second sphere of heaven, Mercury, holds souls who were just, but motivated by fame. Next, Dante and Beatrice ascend to the third sphere of Heaven, Venus, where Dante meets Charles Martel.

In the fourth heaven sphere of the Sun, Dante meets the souls of the wise, who illuminate the world with their intellect. The fifth sphere of heaven, Mars, is home to warriors who fought for Christ's sake. Their souls form a cross and Dante meets many warriors who participated in the Crusades. The sixth sphere of Heaven, Jupiter, is inhabited by the souls of rulers who were just. Their souls form a giant eagle representing divine justice. Saturn, the seventh sphere of heaven is filled with spirits who dedicated their lives to prayer. The eighth sphere of heaven, Fixed Stars, houses Biblical saints and other prominent biblical figures. The last of the spheres, Primum Mobile, is where God himself resides in his three forms; The Father, The Son, and The

Holy Spirit. In the end, Dante sees the Holy Trinity within the Eternal Light. He contemplates the Incarnation. Suddenly, God shows him the answer, and Dante's soul is at one with God's.