

**READING QUESTIONS FOR DANTE'S *DIVINE COMEDY* PART I
"The Purgatorio" (ending on page 291)**

1. Using the attached map of Purgatory as a guide, describe each level of Purgatory and give its distinguishing characteristics. (do this on the attached chart)

2. In Canto X (l. 30 - 138), what senses are used to make the carvings seem lively?

Why might Dante have chosen this way to portray the carvings?

How does Dante's use of art in the terrace of pride suggest the role it can play back on earth?

3. What does Dante have to say about the nature of art in this discussion with the manuscript painter Oderisi in Canto XI (. 79 - 119)? Give 3 points he made.
 - a)

 - b)

 - c)

4. As you know, the Divine Comedy has 100 cantos. Canto 16 of Purgatorio is the 50th canto, and so is at the heart of the poem. Dante focuses on two themes in the center of this Canto. Beginning with a question by the pilgrim Dante (l.53 - 61) he has Marco the Lombard give the answer, with one topic leading to the other. What are the topics Dante chose to expound and what points did he make?

the question:

topic one:

topic two:

5. What topic is expounded in Canto 51 (the other canto at the center)?

PURGATORY

EARTHLY PARADISE

LOVE EXCESSIVE

Terrace Seven The Lustful

Description:

Penance:

Negative examples and/or inspiration:

Terrace Six The Gluttonous

Description:

Penance:

Negative examples and/or inspiration:

Terrace Five The Avaricious and Prodigal

Description:

Penance:

Negative examples and/or inspiration:

LOVE DEFECTIVE

Terrace Four

The Slothful

Description:

Penance:

Negative examples and/or inspiration:

LOVE PERVERTED

Terrace Three

The Wrathful

Description:

Penance:

Negative examples and/or inspiration:

Terrace Two

The Envious

Description:

Penance:

Negative examples and/or inspiration:

Terrace One The Proud

Description:

Penance:

Negative examples and/or inspiration:

Gate of PURGATORY PROPER

The Negligent

Description:

The Indolent

Description:

The Unshriven

Description:

Valley of the Princes

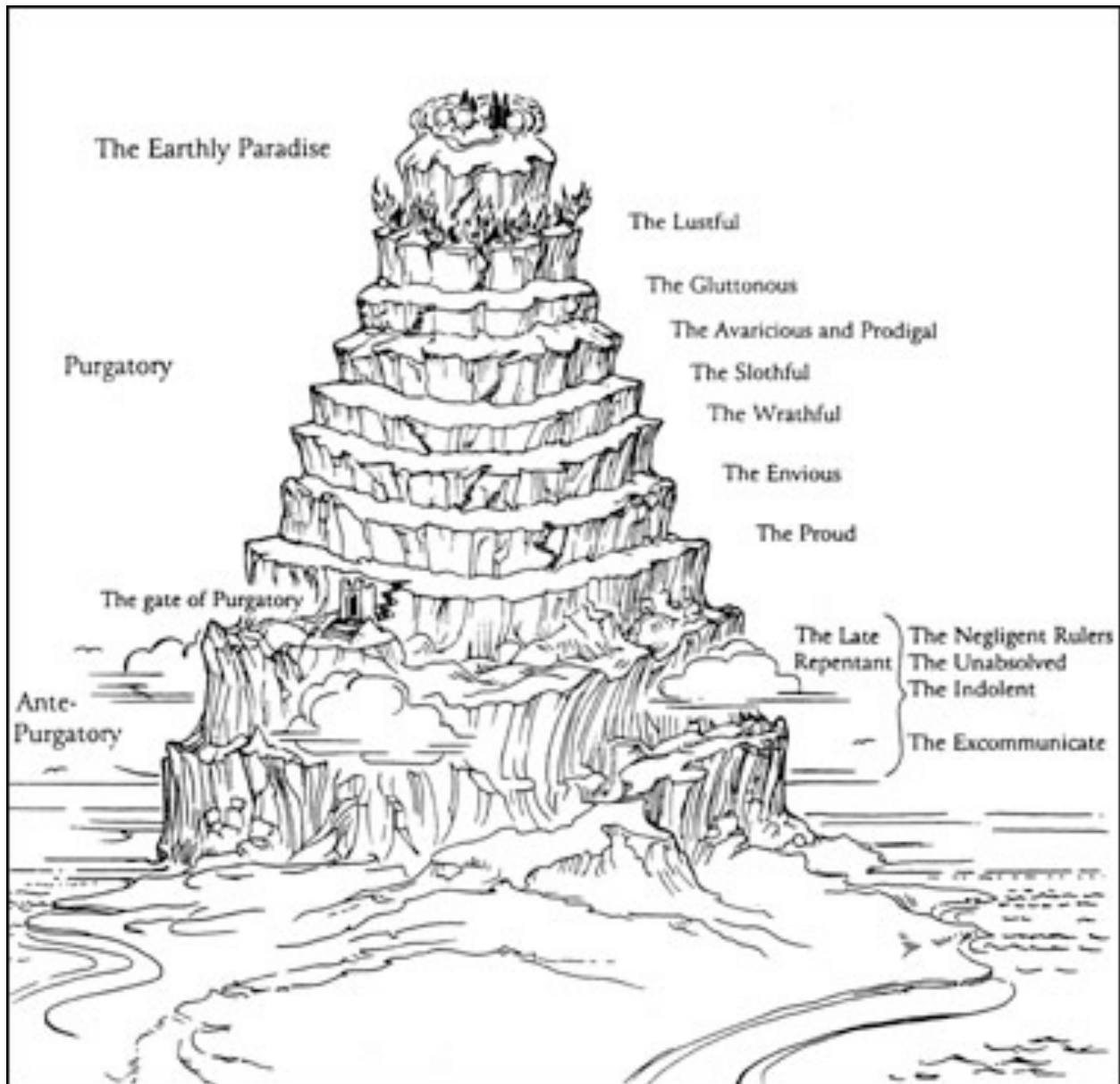
Description:

The Excommunicated

Description:

ANTEPURGATORY

Description:



Purgatory The Poet, with his guide Virgil, ascends the terraces of the Mount of Purgatory inhabited by those doing penance to expiate their sins on Earth. Dante's Purgatory is a lofty island-mountain, the only land in the southern Hemisphere, at the antipodes of Jerusalem. On the lower irregular slopes are the souls whose penitence has, for some reason, been delayed in life and whose purgation is now delayed in death. Above that is the base of Purgatory proper, the place of active purgation, which consists of seven level terraces surrounding the mountain and rising one above another, connected by stairways in the rock.

On these terraces the seven deadly sins are purged by penance from the souls that have been beset by them. On the summit of the mountain is the Garden of Eden, or Earthly Paradise, from which the purged souls ascend to Heaven.