

**THE FIRST CANTICLE,  
INFERNO OF THE  
DIVINE COMEDY**

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The first canticle, Inferno of the Divine comedy by Dante Alighieri

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**DANTE ALIGHIERI**

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THE  
FIRST CANTICLE

Inferno

OF THE  
DIVINE COMEDY

OF  
DANTE ALIGHIERI

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA  
SOUTHERN BRANCH

TRANSLATED BY  
THOMAS WILLIAM PARSONS

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TO

ANNA PARSONS

AND

AUGUSTA BARNARD

# Dedicate this Book.

T. W. PARSONS.

The first section discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records in a business setting. It highlights how proper record-keeping can lead to better decision-making and operational efficiency. The text emphasizes the need for consistency and transparency in all financial and operational transactions.

In the second section, the author explores various methods for data collection and analysis. It compares traditional survey-based approaches with modern digital analytics tools. The discussion includes the benefits of real-time data processing and the challenges of data privacy and security.

The third section focuses on the role of technology in modern business operations. It examines how cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and automation are transforming the way companies manage their resources and interact with customers. The text also touches upon the importance of cybersecurity in protecting sensitive business information.

The final section provides a comprehensive overview of the current business landscape. It discusses the impact of global economic trends, such as inflation and supply chain disruptions, on various industries. The author concludes by offering strategic recommendations for businesses looking to thrive in a competitive and rapidly changing market.



# I N F E R N O.

## CANTO THE FIRST.

HALFWAY on our life's journey, in a wood,  
From the right path I found myself astray.  
Ah! to describe how dark it was, — how rude  
That savage forest! chills me to this day:  
Its bitter thought is almost death to me;  
Yet, having found some good there, I will tell  
Of other things which there I chanced to see:  
But, how I came therein, I know not well;      8  
For sleep had mastered me when first I went  
From the true way, abandoned to my woe;  
Till having reached the foot of an ascent  
Where this vale ended that appalled me so,  
Looking on high, its shoulders I beheld  
Robed in the Planet's rays who guides men right  
Through every pass: then part the fear was quelled  
That froze my heart's lake all that piteous night.      18

Like one cast breathless, gasping from the spray,  
Who eyes the watery peril from the shore,  
My mind, still flying, turned me to survey  
The track no living man e'er passed before.  
Then, after easing my worn limbs with rest,  
On through that wilderness I wandered, still  
Keeping my lower foot most firmly prest;  
When, lo! beginning now to climb the hill, 24  
A leopard, glistening in a dappled hide,  
That would not fly, though light and full of speed,  
Hindering my way, before me I descried,  
And often turned, as doubtful to proceed.

The time was morning: and the sun above  
The world was riding with his kindred stars,  
His old companions from the day when Love  
Divine first moved those beautiful bright cars: 28  
Hope cheered my heart to mark the dawning bright,  
The season sweet, the creature's lively dress;  
But soon a lion met my startled sight,  
Whose fearful shape renewed my late distress.  
With towering head he stalked and ravenous mien,  
Striding towards me, and seemed to shake the air:  
Next, came a she-wolf, — one that long hath been  
The curse of millions dwelling in despair. 40

Meagre, but looking crammed with every lust,  
 She caused such horror though my soul to creep,  
 That I began to falter, and mistrust  
 My power to win the summit of the steep.

I felt like one who, gladly gathering gain,  
 Until some luckless time that brings him loss,  
 Then, all disheartened, sorely doth complain —  
 To see that restless beast my pathway cross.

With every stride she drove me slowly back  
 Down where no Sun the stillness did illumine;  
 But while I thus was falling from my track,  
 A form before me glimmered through the gloom,  
 Whom faintly marking, as obscure he seemed  
 In the long silence of that desert glade,  
 "Whate'er thou art, oh pity me!" I screamed —  
 "Whether a living man, or but a shade."

"No man," he answered — "once I was a man;  
 Mantua my Lombard parents called their home;  
 In Julius' reign (though late) my life began,  
 And, under good Augustus, passed at Rome.  
 In those false days, by lying gods o'errun,  
 A Poet I, and sang of him who came  
 From blazing Troy, Anchises' righteous son,  
 When all proud Ilion melted in one flame.