

Conclusion

"The three kingdoms, *Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, *Paradiso*, look out on one another like compartments of a great edifice, a great supernatural world-cathedral, piled up there, stern, solemn, awful : Dante's World of Souls."

CARLYLE : *The Hero as Poet*.

THE action of the Divine Comedy, which reveals to us this World of Souls, covers a period of one week. The supposed date is March 24th, the eve of Good Friday, to April 1st, in the year 1300. Dante, in his letter of dedication to Can Grande, says that the purpose of the Comedy is "to remove those living in this life from the state of misery and lead them to the state of felicity." Thus, in virtue of its subject, its aim, and its felicitous treatment, it stands as one of the greatest epic poems of all time.