

*"Thou shalt abandon everything beloved / Most tenderly,
and this the arrow is / Which first the bow of banishment
shoots forth. / Thou shalt have proof how savourest of
salt / The bread of others, and how hard a road / The
going down and up another's stairs."¹ Exile inspired the
Comedy of a man who tercet after tercet becomes a
pilgrim together with the Man. We are exiled by nature
– exiled from ourselves. *Éxules filii Evæ*, banished chil-
dren of Eve²: an extended family certificate of common
motherhood – "The Lord shall count, when he writeth up
the people, that this man was born there". "This and that
man was born in her",³ a mother "Who takes her son ..., /
Having more care of him than of herself,"⁴ carries univer-
sal childhood "in the heat of love."⁵ Such is the chromo-
some set of Man and Woman: God-infused clay mixtures
who set out to wander: they turned from Gan 'Eden and
cleared the boundaries guarded by cherubs, with a re-
strained step or a driving desire, between the sweat of
the earth and the vault of the sky.⁶ Time is short in exile,⁷
so "that mortality might be swallowed up of life."⁸ Exile is
what Antonio Teruzzi echoes: exile among other exiles,
he unfolds the three Canticles, taut, like everyone else,
between earth and sky.*

*The Inferno is scorched earth. Deep red and black grids
are the gates of prison for life. "All hope abandon, ye who
enter in"⁹ is a cruel warning for the lost bed shaped by
hope. He does not despair "within the forest dark"¹⁰ and
instead challenges dogma, hoping against all hope:¹¹
"Thence we came forth to rebehold the stars."¹²*

*Behind the bars the lost coin shines on.¹³ The lost she-
ep bleats again:¹⁴ it "seeketh Liberty, which is so dear, /
As knoweth he who life for her refuses."¹⁵ Waiting time in
the timeless hereafter, the Purgatory separates light from
shadow. It clears the black absorbing the gold which hin-
ts at a renewed venture: "Pure and disposed to mount
unto the stars."¹⁶*

The ethereal Canticle materializes in twin colors: black

*and gold bring dust and stars to heaven. The sky narra-
tes the earth; the bed is drawn from there: "Within itself,
of its own very colour / Seemed to me painted with our
effigy, / Wherefore my sight was all absorbed therein."¹⁷
The immigrant is tattooed with scars ad perpètuum rei
memòriam, yet gold makes the bars thinner: an amnesty
pardons Cain and the freed exile soars towards "The Love
which moves the sun and the other stars."¹⁸*

*Antonio ponders lost beds, mirrors of stars; carved frag-
ments still capable of the primordial image: "treasure in
earthen vessels"¹⁹ pouring utopia. Exile may even point
the exiles to a destination! Utopia cries from below: by gil-
ding the field, it sets up the dance floor for the saved ones
- consummati in unum, made perfect in one,²⁰ they dan-
ce and sing in unison: "'Salve Regina,' on the green and
flowers / There seated, singing, spirits I beheld, / Which
were not visible outside the valley."²¹ Scores of inclusive
rhythms "to seek and to save that which was lost."²² A safe
harbor in the "valley of [weeping]."²³ A smacking kiss as
"the sun comes ... and night cometh."²⁴ the hour in which
the mother forgives everything, and the son can dare to
do everything: "And after this, our exile, show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus."²⁵*

Andrea Stabellini

-
- ¹ DANTE, *Comedia - Paradiso*, XVII, 54-60 [Edizione critica della «vulgata» curata da Giorgio Petrocchi, in: N. SAPEGNO (CUR.), *Dante Alighieri, La Divina Commedia. Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso*, La Nuova Italia Editrice, Scandicci (FI), 2004].
- ² *Salve, Regína*, (Ermanno di Reichenau, attr., sec. XI), testo latino in: CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI, *Catechismo della Chiesa Cattolica. Compendio*, Città del Vaticano, 2005, *Appendice A) Preghiere Comuni*, 165-176, qui 167.
- ³ Sal 87(86), 5.6.
- ⁴ DANTE, *Comedia - Inferno*, XXIII, 40-41.
- ⁵ DANTE, *Comedia - Paradiso*, V, 1.
- ⁶ Cfr. Gen 2, 6-7 18-25; Gen 3, 20-24.
- ⁷ Cfr. 1 Cor 7, 29.
- ⁸ 2 Cor 5, 4b.
- ⁹ DANTE, *Comedia - Inferno*, III, 9.
- ¹⁰ DANTE, *Comedia - Inferno*, I, 2.
- ¹¹ Rm 4, 18.
- ¹² DANTE, *Comedia - Inferno*, XXXIV, 139.
- ¹³ Cfr. Lc 15, 8-10.
- ¹⁴ Cfr. Mt 18, 12-14 e Lc 15, 3-7.
- ¹⁵ DANTE, *Comedia - Purgatorio*, I, 71-72.
- ¹⁶ DANTE, *Comedia - Purgatorio*, XXXIII, 145.
- ¹⁷ DANTE, *Comedia - Paradiso*, XXXIII, 130-132.
- ¹⁸ DANTE, *Comedia - Paradiso*, XXXIII, 144.
- ¹⁹ 2 Cor 4, 7.
- ²⁰ Gv 17, 23 (Vulg.); motto episcopale di mons. Diego Coletti, già Vescovo di Como.
- ²¹ DANTE, *Comedia - Purgatorio*, VII, 82-84.
- ²² Lc 19, 10.
- ²³ Sal 84(83), 7 e Gdc 2, 1-5.
- ²⁴ DANTE, *Comedia - Purgatorio*, XXVII, 61.
- ²⁵ *Salve, Regina*, testo italiano in: CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI, *Catechismo*, cit., 167.