



The Divine Comedy of Dante the Inferno: A Translation and Commentary (Classic Reprint)

Marvin R. Vincent

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The last quarter of a century has witnessed such a notable revival of interest in Dante, and so many valuable contributions to the Dante-literature, that I have been led to believe that there is room for a new Translation and Commentary, in the light of these later contributions. Many of the fruits of these are contained in the Commentary, many more in the Translation. I have made a literal translation, and have not attempted to produce a smooth and elegant English poem. Such an attempt will inevitably land any translator in florid paraphrase. One who studies the Commedia only through the medium of a translation, must be content with a partial impression of its beauty, grandeur, and power. At the very best, translation is disenchantment ;but certainly the spell will not be restored by rhetorical amplifications, by diluting Dante's thought into conventional commonplace, or by emasculating his vigorous diction to meet the demands of conventional propriety. Literal translation will confront its readers with not a few novel, startling, and occasionally disagreeable forms of expression. For these, Dante, and not his translator, must be held responsible. I have used the texts of Witte, Scartazzini, and Moore; but the basis of the Translation is the Oxford text of Dr. Moore.

(Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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