Dante

Purgatory from The Divine Comedy

Read by **Heathcote Williams**

*'Now of that second kingdom I shall sing
where human souls are purified of sin,
and made worthy to ascend to Heaven.'*

Purgatory is the second part of Dante's *The Divine Comedy*. We find the Poet, with his guide Virgil, ascending the terraces of the Mount of Purgatory inhabited by those doing penance to expiate their sins on earth. There are the proud – forced to circle their terrace for aeons bent double in humility; the slothful – running around crying out examples of zeal and sloth; while the lustful are purged by fire.

Though less well-known than *Inferno, Purgatory* has inspired many writers, including, in our century, Samuel Beckett and has played a key role in literature.

Heathcote Williams, poet, playwright and actor, has made a significant contribution to many fields. He is best known for his extended poems on environmental subjects: *Whale Nation*, *Falling for a Dolphin, Sacred Elephant* and *Autogeddon*. His plays have also won acclaim, notably *AC/DC* produced at London's Royal Court, and *Hancock's Last Half Hour.* As an actor he has been equally versatile – taking memorable roles in *Orlando*, *Wish You Were Here* and Derek Jarman's *The Tempest*, in which he played Prospero. He also reads *Inferno* and *Paradise* from *The Divine Comedy* for Naxos AudioBooks.

CD 1: 66:41; CD 2: 75:43; CD 3: 65:51
CD 4: 65:13 Total 4:33:28

POETRY

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