

Dante Inferno from The Divine Comedy

Read by **Heathcote Williams**

ABANDON ALL HOPE YOU WHO ENTER HERE

(*Lasciate ogne speranza voi ch'intrate*)

Dante's Hell is one of the most remarkable visions in Western literature. An allegory for his and future ages, it is, at the same time, an account of terrifying realism. Passing under a lintel emblazoned with these frightening words, the poet is lead down into the depths by Virgil and shown those doomed to suffer eternal torment for vices exhibited and sins committed on earth.

The *Inferno* is the first part of the long journey which continues through redemption to revelation – through *Purgatory* and *Paradise* – and, in this translation prepared especially for audiobook, his images are as vivid as when the poem was first written in the early years of the 14th century.



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 *Purgatory* and *Paradise* from *The Divine Comedy* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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