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POETRY

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Dante Paradise from The Divine Comedy

Read by **Heathcote Williams**

'I have been in the Heaven that takes up most of his light, and saw things there that those who descend from that height cannot speak of or forget...'

Led by his guide Beatrice, Dante leaves the Earth behind and soars through the heavenly spheres of *Paradise*. In this third and final part of the Divine Comedy, he encounters the just rulers and holy saints of the Church. The horrors of the *Inferno* and the trials of *Purgatory* are left far behind. Ultimately, in *Paradise*, Dante is granted a vision of God's Heavenly court – the angels, the Blessed Virgin and God Himself.



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

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