



Dante and the Night Journey

By Alan Williamson

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This book emphasizes Dante's universality and explores Dante's growth in the problematic areas of love, anger, and ambition by drawing analogies between his journey through purgatory and contemporary experiences of recovery.

This book is a psychological reading, emphasizing Dante's universality. The Jungian concept of the "night journey," the descent into the darkest areas of the self and of human nature, which is the precondition for spiritual growth, informs Dante's journey through the three realms of the afterlife. Personal testimony about despair and recovery stands side by side with detailed close readings of much-discussed passages.

Readership

This book would be of interest to those who teach Dante to undergraduates; poets and those generally interested in poetry; people interested in a spiritual slant on psychological difficulties and personal growth, especially perhaps in the Zen community. The book might be of interest, though a source of controversy, to professional Dante scholars.

Key selling points

- Emphasizes Dante's universality.
- Articulates Dante's journey through the three realms of the after life.
- Relates to those who have undergone their own night journeys, or embarked on a spiritual path.
- Disputes with professional dantisti over exclusively theological readings.

Contents

Preface; The Night Journey; Love; Anger; Ambition; The Tremulousness of Recovery; Identity in Paradise

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Alan Williamson is the author of numerous books of poetry, literary criticism, and translation. He is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Davis, and teaches in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers.

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