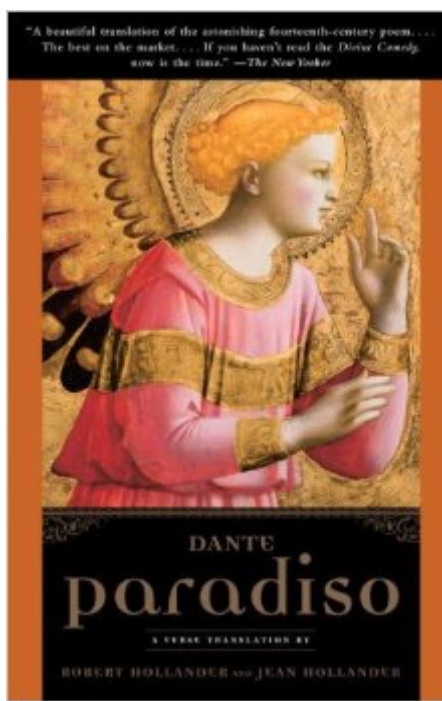


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# Paradiso



## Synopsis

With his journeys through Hell and Purgatory complete, Dante is at last led by his beloved Beatrice to Paradise. Where his experiences in the Inferno and Purgatorio were arduous and harrowing, this is a journey of comfort, revelation, and, above all, love--both romantic and divine. Robert Hollander is a Dante scholar of unmatched reputation and his wife, Jean, is an accomplished poet. Their verse translation with facing-page Italian combines maximum fidelity to Dante's text with the artistry necessary to reflect the original's virtuosity. They have produced the clearest, most accurate, and most readable translation of the three books of The Divine Comedy, with unsurpassable footnotes and introductions, likely to be a touchstone for generations to come.

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## Customer Reviews

I had a physical copy of this book, and recently bought the ebook. The digital edition is extremely well done. You can jump back and forth between English and Italian, as well as between text and notes. It's really easy to navigate! Whoever formatted it did a terrific job.

Whether you're reading the Comedy for the first time or you need it for a class, you can't go wrong with the Hollander edition. Each of the 3 books--Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso--includes a diagram of where Dante is going; an outline of each canto; side-by-side Italian/English translation; extensive, easy-to-read explanatory notes after each canto; and a couple of helpful indexes. These books are worth the money!

I have long had this book in paperback. Right now I have been engaging in an approximately three month long online discussion of Dante's *Commedia*. I had heard how good are the connections between footnotes and text on the Kindle and I was tired of carrying around the paperback version, so last night I decided for this last volume I would indulge in the Kindle version of *Paradiso*. This was despite the wonderful Dante Princeton site, which has the Hollander translation online [...] and despite already owning a hard copy. After one afternoon and evening, I am absolutely delighted with the investment. It is such a pleasure to work between the text and notes (regardless of occasional glitches in the touch technology). (I continue to follow the text in another translation as well.) If not for the cost, I'd purchase the other two volumes in their Kindle version as well. If the publisher/ makes available the Lending Option so I can share with my family, I shall probably still do so when the year comes for a re-read (probably 2015).

The virtues of this as a work of scholarship have been rightly praised. I would just like to offer thanks to the publishers for the care they have taken in preparing the Kindle edition. The text is laid out beautifully and one can click from Italian to English and back again with great ease, and also to the footnotes. I wish all publishers took such care with their e-books.

I have all three translation/commentaries that Robert and Jean Hollander have produced - *Inferno*, *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso* and as an Italian speaker I think they are the best I have seen to date. If I understand the division of labour (apologies if incorrect), Jean as the poet has worked to structure the best English outcome from Dante's original and what shows is a desire to stay true to his actual words and meaning and not try to emulate rhymes, rhythms etc as that's almost impossible. Robert as a lifetime Dante scholar contributes excellent notes on a near line by line basis. Each line in the *Commedia* has a unique identifier which has enabled over the years, commentators and scholars to discuss and argue meaning and intent with some such debates persisting to the present. As Roberto Benigni - of *Tutto Dante* fame and a friend of the Hollanders, says - 'Dante e duro, duro, duro' - Dante is hard, hard, hard. It's not an easy work to come to terms with and requires effort and persistence. Here the Hollander's works are an immense assistance.

This is the third part of the *Divina Commedia*. Robert Hollander, a Princeton professor (now retired), has devoted his career to the study and teaching of Dante. His translation into English does a fine and aesthetically pleasing job of carrying the meaning of the Italian original into the English version.

The two versions are printed on facing pages in this book. Dr. Hollander's wife, Jean, has assisted him in his work on all three parts of the translation of the Commedia. This is an excellent translation. The meaning comes through clearly. The Hollanders supply good and very thorough supporting notes throughout, canto by canto.

Lots of translations out there- even on nook-- but small screen wasn't enjoyable-especially to try to highlight a passage, The nook translation was very modern--maybe too much so. But this book has Italian and English cantos on opposite pages through out book-- there are pages before the canto to tell you what to expect and pages after cantos to discuss what was read-- If you are reading with a group this is so helpful.

Translation is weak, especially when compared with Allen Mandelbaum's--his translation of all three parts of The Divine Comedy are uniformly excellent. More notes could be used in Mandelbaum's translation. This book is worth having for the notes, despite the inferior translation.

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