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Dante: Traces of the Prophetic

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Abstract

The purpose of this project is the scrutiny of the vocational claims that Dante makes throughout his *Commedia*. Engaging the prophet-poet dichotomy through gradations of authorial authority, I place Dante within many vocations from prophet to poet, including mystic, philosopher and theologian, settling ultimately on Dante as a sort of seer, one who communicates parables as The Christ is known to do, but, making it expressly clear that his theological inaccuracies place him beneath biblical prophets in authority. The conscious strategies that Dante employs to secure *auctoritas* for his poem such as employing the biblical mystical senses, and resting on the shoulders of Virgil his philosophical and poetic *auctor* will be examined, showing intent in Dante to induce suspension of disbelief in his readers pertaining his vocational claims.