

LESSONS FOR PRESENT, LESSONS FOR FUTURE

ERASMUS+ PROJECT: 2014-I-ES01-KA201-004981 2014/2017



INDIFFERENCE, LITERARY ITINERARY

Dante, Inferno, Canto III, lines 34-42; 46-51

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...”This miserable mode
Maintain the melancholy souls of
those
Who lived withouten infamy or praise.
Commingled are they with that caitiff
choir
**Of Angels, who have not rebellious
been,
Not faithful were to God, but were for
self.
The heavens expelled them, not to be
less fair, nor them nethermore abyss
receives, for glory none the damned**

**would have from them.”
(...)
These have no longer any
hope of death;
And this blind life of their is
so debased,
They envious are of every
other fate, no fame of them
the world permits to be;
Misericord and Justice both
disdain them...Let us not
speak of them, but look, and
pass”.**

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LETTER XII, Dante to a Florentine friend, the 19th of May 1315

In this letter Dante rejects the offer of returning to Florence following the amnesty for exiles in 1315, which he considered defamatory because he had to pay a sum of money to his persecutors and declared himself to be guilty. He refused and he never returned to Florence.

“Fur be it from a man who preaches justice after having patiently endured injury to pay his money to those inflicting it, as though they were his benefactors. This is not the way to return to my country. If another shall be found by you, or by others, that does not derogate from the fame and honour of Dante, that will I take with no lagging steps. But if Florence is entered by no such path, then never will I enter Florence.”