Dante’s Divine Comedy is traditionally judged to be one of the most important poems in Western culture. At the center of the poem is the human being, his condition in the afterlife and his punishment or reward. Taken literally, the theme is the state of souls after death. Allegorically, the true subject is the moral life.

Attention is given to the context in which Dante lived and wrote, we focus not just on the Commedia but also on the culture that the Commedia inherits and on the circumstances in which the Poet operated and lived.

The context in which the Commedia was conceived portrays Dante as a man of his time. However theologically motivated, Dante is the first poet and intellectual who, writing in vernacular, attempts to educate his readers to the values and meanings of a political and ethical earthly happiness.