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The Divine Vision of Dante's Paradiso

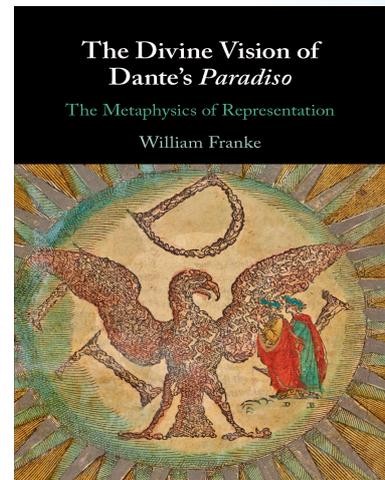
The Metaphysics of Representation

William Franke

Vanderbilt University, Tennessee

In Canto XVIII of *Paradiso*, Dante sees thirty-five letters of Scripture - LOVE JUSTICE, YOU WHO RULE THE EARTH - 'painted' one after the other in the sky. It is an epiphany that encapsulates the *Paradiso*, staging its ultimate goal - the divine vision. This book offers a fresh, intensive reading of this extraordinary passage at the heart of the third canticle of the *Divine Comedy*. While adapting in novel ways the methods of the traditional *lectura Dantis*, William Franke meditates independently on the philosophical, theological, political, ethical, and aesthetic ideas that Dante's text so provocatively projects into a multiplicity of disciplinary contexts. This book demands that we question not only what Dante may have meant by his representations, but also what they mean for us today in the broad horizon of our intellectual traditions and cultural heritage.

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'This is a brilliant and enjoyable book. With sharp interdisciplinary acumen, Franke provides lucid and creative readings that offer original and fruitful perspectives on Dante's *Commedia*, highlighting its relevance for contemporary studies in theology, philosophy and literature. *The Divine Vision of Dante's Paradiso* compellingly shows how Dante's bold and experimental writing can, even for us today, vivify in striking ways reflection on truth and its mediation.

Vittorio Montemaggi,
King's College London



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