



Dante Series

4th May

1321

2021

The Center for Italian Studies presents

The Rose of Paradise

A Lecture by **Andrea Celli**,

Assistant Professor of Italian Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Connecticut

Andrea Celli is chair of the Italian Studies program at the University of Connecticut. His research focuses on cultural interactions between Mediterranean Europe and the Islamic world in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period. He has published monographs and essays, and has translated works by French and Arabic authors, including Louis Massignon and the Syrian poet Adonis. The title of his forthcoming book is *A Mediterranean Comedy: Dante and Islam, from Medieval Tuscany to Post-Colonial Italy*.

One could argue that the last cantos of Dante's *Paradiso* are the poet's account – "to the people of the future" – of his visions in the Empyrean: the intervention of Bernard of Clairvaux, Dante's last guide, interceding before the Virgin Mary for Dante; the vision of the heavenly river of light, where Beatrice now is; the "alto lume", in which Dante's eyes sink deeply and deeply. Yet, what the reader witnesses through the multiplying images springing one from another while the end of the poem is approaching, is the full display of Dante's "alta fantasia", his poetic imagination and intelligence. The metaphysical topography of the "candida Rosa," the white celestial rose in which remoteness and proximity, present and eternity, progression and stillness coexist, are ultimately one with the movement of the poet's mind. The talk will offer an introduction to cantos 30 to 33 of the *Paradiso*.

Join us Tuesday, May 4th, 2021, at 11:30 AM EST

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