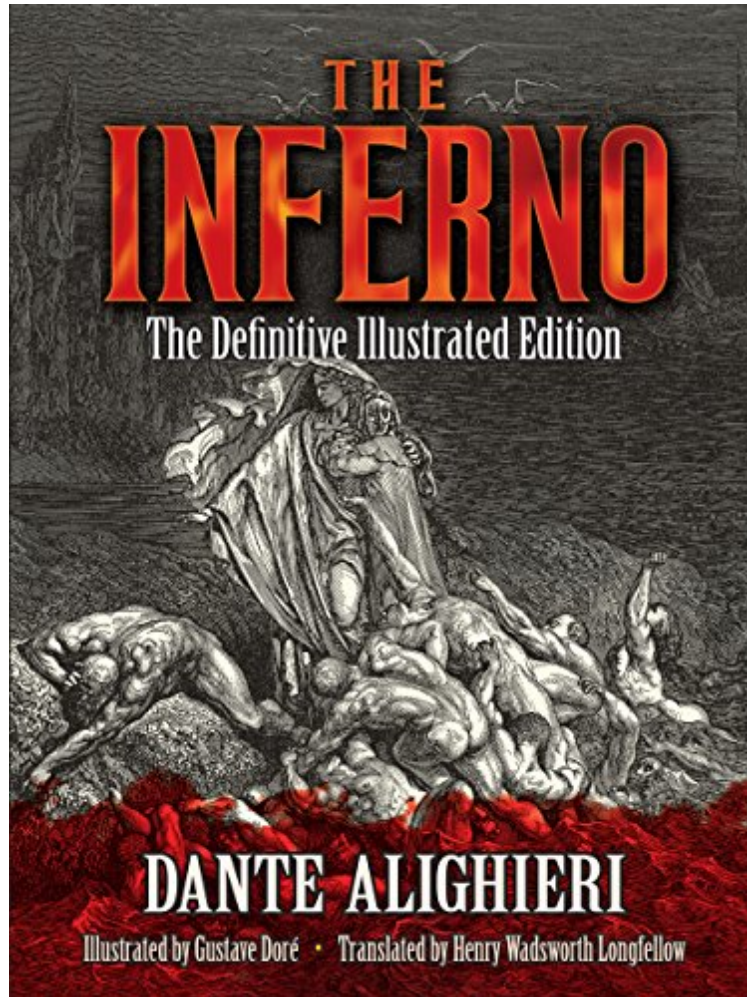


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## The Inferno: The Definitive Illustrated Edition

*Dante Alighieri*

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**Dante Alighieri : The Inferno: The Definitive Illustrated Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Inferno: The Definitive Illustrated Edition:

In 1867, when Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published the first American edition of The Inferno, Dante was almost unknown in this country. The New England poet and educator, who taught Italian literature at Harvard, introduced Dante's literary genius to the New World with this vibrant blank verse translation of the first and most popular book of the three-part Divine Comedy. Expressed in haunting poetry of great emotional power, The Inferno chronicles Dante's passage through nine circles of the underworld and his encounters with tormented sinners. Combining Aristotelian philosophy, mythology, Roman Catholicism, and thirteenth-century Italian politics, this landmark of world literature forms a unique synthesis of the Christian, classical, and secular worlds. Dante's depictions of hell and its grotesque

punishments found their ideal match in the hands of the eminent nineteenth-century illustrator Gustave Doré;. Unable to find a sponsor, the artist published his stunning engravings for *The Inferno* at his own expense. An instant and enduring success, Doré's images made a lasting impression on the public imagination. This volume's enchanting translation and unforgettable illustrations offer readers a perfect blend of literary and artistic skill.

About the AuthorFlorentine poet Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) is best known for *The Divine Comedy*, a three-part epic poem that progresses from Hell (*Inferno*) to Purgatory to Paradise. Written in the vernacular, rather than Latin or Greek, Dante's masterpiece immediately found a wide audience; it is considered the greatest work of Italian literature and its author is regarded as the father of modern Italian. French illustrator Gustave Doré (1833–1883) began his prolific career at the age of 15, and his dramatic engravings have exercised an incalculable influence over latter-day artists. His remarkable scope includes scenes from Milton, Dante, Rabelais, Shakespeare, and the Bible, as well as street scenes of 19th-century London. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), author of *The Song of Hiawatha* and other beloved poems, was Professor of Modern Languages at Harvard University.