

Background

Dante Today, a website curated by Elizabeth Coggeshall and Arielle Saiber. The website serves as a living archive of “citings” and “sightings” of Dante’s work and influences in the 21st century. Examples include art, literature, architecture, and other creations. The site has been active since 2006. Inspired by the students in her “Dante’s *Divine Comedy*” course, Arielle Saiber (Johns Hopkins University) created the site to archive the references to Dante and his works that her students kept finding and bringing to her. In 2012, Elizabeth Coggeshall (Florida State University, formerly Stanford University) joined the editorship of the project, after teaching a course entitled “Dante and the Modern Imagination.” *Dante Today* stands to function as a crowdsourced archive of Dante’s presence in our lives and our world and in contemporary culture.

Conclusion

Dante’s literary works are timeless. His journey through hell, purgatory and paradise is ripe with metaphors and allegories. Looking to the past to understand and learn from works such as the *Divine Comedy* allows us to better understand what it means to be human. When literary works can produce such an understanding and inspiring creations such as the ones presented in this poster, we need to cherish them so that we can continue to create inspiration for the future.

Methods

Throughout the research process and archiving of artifacts, one area in which I invested a particular focus on was the line from *Paradise* “The love that moves the sun and other stars.” This line holds particular importance in the *Divine Comedy* and demonstrates the power of language in literature. A great deal of the submissions that I worked through had been inspired by this quote, creations ranging from paintings, exhibitions, photos, and blogs. For a piece of literature as old as the *Divine Comedy* to still inspire the people of the 21st century demonstrates the true influence of the text. This poster highlights some of the creations inspired by this quote from Dante Alighieri.

“The Love that Moves” Card Drawing by Meredith Eliassen

January 23, 2023 By [Sebastian Spadavecchio](#)



“L'amor che muove il sole e l'altre stelle.” (The love that moves the sun and the other stars.) from *Paradiso* by Dante Alighiere [sic], 1265-1321. Image motif inspired by a card design by Robbin Rawlings. Drawing by Meredith Eliassen, 2016.”

—Meredith Eliassen, “Dante... on Love,” [MME Designs's Weblog](#), February 11, 2016

References

- [Dante Today \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- [“Our Desire is a Gift From the Stars,” A Unitarian Universalist Blogpost \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- [Edith Torony, Love that Moves the Sun and Other Stars \(2019 painting\) \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- [“The Love that Moves” Card Drawing by Meredith Eliassen \(jhu.edu\)](#)

Artifacts

Edith Torony, *Love that Moves the Sun and Other Stars* (2019 painting)

February 1, 2023 By [Sebastian Spadavecchio](#)



“Our Desire is a Gift From the Stars,” A Unitarian Universalist Blogpost

January 23, 2023 By [Sebastian Spadavecchio](#)



“The word desire comes from the Latin *desiderare*: ‘to long for,’ but the Latin *desiderare* comes from *de sidere*: ‘from the stars.’ From the stars.”

“I find this extraordinary: to think that somehow our desire, our longing, is connected to the very stars in the sky. The stars, which share their light with us across such impossible distances of time and space. The poets might say our desire is a gift from the stars and is ultimately for them and the beauty and mystery and the creative fire and energy of which they are for us a sign.”