

Dante was his Virgil more than a half truth
in view of all the anxieties of exile
he came to call his own. Notions of perfection.

Visions of paradise. Prosody
the composition of words set to music.
Poetry less invention than a skillful finding

entering into the ghostly *logos* of language,
and a willing of its own realization,
the poet-author binding together vowels—

the souls of songs—as the man of authority
binds together the disparate souls of men.
Which neoplatonists to look to

for clarity on the practical implications
of the metaphysics of light. Which poets
to spend a lifetime trying to get into

the eloquence of the vulgar tongue. Words
as Aristotle said the seeds of action
the monarch is obligated to plant so with time

they fructify in community life. Justice
whose antithesis is avarice,
desire to have more than others. The just

society a reflection of people in love,
fidelity to the authorities
on the three orders of human dignity—

philosophy ethics theology.
The *vita contemplativa*—speculation—
closer to God than the practical arts, as per

the Angelic Doctor, the moral order of action
and technical order of creation both less noble
than the theoretical order of knowledge

though of equal weight in authority:
the personal spiritual and political spheres
(reason contemplation public work)

each supreme in its own bailiwick—

he who contemplates does not govern
he who governs does not contemplate—

separate but of equal competence
in a convivial live and let live world
to each his very own beatitude

peace on earth finally enabling
actualization of human intellect
in toto the whole human community

free, each individual free
to act in accordance with his own nature
a hierarchy without subordination

a peace achievable only through sovereignty
exercised by a strong leader who having
all is beneficent, without greed,

a fount of unselfish love and charity
which is to say love in rectitude
to refine and clarify justice

constraining men by force of law to admit
the natural truth of the philosophers
the supernatural truth of the contemplators

for just as the natural body needs a head
(man being a compound substance
composed of rational psyche and demented matter

eyes on the stars and feet in the mud) it follows
that as different middle terms in logic
lead to different conclusions so

different ends require different means
the body politic needing a head of state
to keep ubiquitous greed in check.