

Interactive comment on “La Commedia Scientifica: Dante and the Scientific Virtues” by Anthea R. Lacchia and Stephen Webster

Anonymous Referee #2

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I have just finished reading the paper. I was intrigued by the title (DANTE AND THE SCIENTIFIC VALUES) but I was disappointed by the actual paper. I thought it would be about the relationship between ethical virtues and scientific research, but in fact it is about the moral character (i.e. the behavior) of researchers. The fact that the researchers considered in the paper are scientists seems irrelevant, they could be humanists or social scientists, business people or carpenters and the thrust of the paper would still be the same and equally applicable. The idea of using the Divine Comedy as a grid to evaluate the behavior (the moral standards) of contemporary researchers is brilliant but in the end it does not tell us anything new about them beyond the fact that they are subject to human failings; above all, it doesn't tell us anything about scientific values, which I mistakenly thought would be the subject of the paper.

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