

CONTEMPLATING PIATO AND THE CARDINAL

Forsaking comfort zones of thought, you plumbed
New answers, keener scruples, higher knowledge.
Applying logic, you defeated fear
Of death, its old genetic grip on man.

For you, so long before Christ came to Earth,
Perceived that death might be man's greatest boon.
You recognized that striving for the good
Should be the first concern, not mortal life.

Millenia removed, you could not know
A modern Cardinal who called death "friend."
Of course, he knew of you, plus centuries
Of wisdom and the holy Word passed down.

This Bernadin would seek you out, I think.
I hope the two of you have met by now.
You have comparisons to make. You learned
The greater part of truth when you passed through

The gate you knew was there. Two Old World sons,
Two intellectuals with well-known names,
Believers of two different faiths, but kin.
What conversations you will share together!