Appendition of the Name

But she? Who is she? The Church, theology, philosophy, grace, Béatrice Portinari, the Florentine child... And yet it is through none of these meanings that she is poetic word; these meanings can only be because they form the language which allows rhythm to show.¹

Beatrice is salut [saving/greeting], in the secret, the singular bivocity of this word. She is the one who salutes in the Vita Nova, she who saves in the Comedy. Dante receives from her greetings and salvation: Apparuit jam beatitudo vestra. The vita nova is that life where ladies pass: “And where I was, all full of fear, and through her ineffable courtesy, which is today recompensed in the world of the elect, she made a greeting to me the effect of which was so marvelous that I thought that I was then seeing the last degree of beatitude…”

... e cui salutà fa tremar lo core
Si che bassando il viso tutto smore
e d’ogni suo difetto allor sospira

(and to he whom she salutes, she makes his heart tremble / to the point where lowering his face he becomes very pale / and for all his flaws then does he sigh)²

For Dante, Beatrice is the one who tears him away from the fray; it is enough for him to be saluted by her in order to receive his salvation; he hates no more, he loves, he seeks justice. “I say that when she was to appear in some place, out of hope for her marvelous salut, I saw no more enemy in person; on the contrary, I was won by a flame of charity which had me pardon anyone who might have offended me, and if one had addressed

¹ G. Iommi.
to me any request, as a response I would have said only Love, my face dressed in humility."

The *Vita Nova* is that book which is written to found the double meaning of salut. Beatrice is that name which has received a face in order that its truth be heard, that is to say for a poet, for it is he who has the passion of the etymon, he for whom the sound, the sense, the name, the appearance are all one, that is to say: that which is there, present in its presence. The model of this extraordinary event, central, properly poetic, the only event in the life of the poet: event of the hearing of the sense of a name thanks to the paradigmatic apparition that this name was made for naming without anyone knowing it, and that it was waiting. ("Nine times already, since my birth, the sky of light had come around again to the same point in its revolution, when to my eyes appeared for the first time the glorious lady of my thought, she who was called Beatrice by many people who do not know what it is to give a name"), this event is given to us in this passage of the *Vita Nova*, where what is essential is, literally, passage: "And shortly after these words which the heart spoke to me through Love's mouth, I saw coming toward me a gentle lady, who was a famous beauty and who was once the sovereign mistress of he whom I called my first friend. And the name of that lady was Giovanna: still, for her beauty, as people believed, she had been baptised Primavera, and that was how they called her. And after her, watching, I saw coming the admirable Beatrice. These ladies passed so near to me, one followed by the other, and it seemed that Love spoke in my heart and was saying: she who goes first is named Primavera only because of her coming today, for it is me who pushed he who baptised her to call her Primavera, that is to say prima verrà: she will come first the day that Beatrice will show herself after the hallucination of her servant: and to the extent that you wish to consider her first name, it too amounts to saying: “she will come first”, because her name Joan comes from John who precedes the true light, saying: *Ego vox clamantes in deserto Parate viam Domini*. And it seemed to me also that he was telling me then these words: “And whoever would look closely enough should call this Beatrice ‘Love’ for the great resemblance which she bears to me.”

The "etymological" nomination of the poem greets the epiphany of the present by hearing and understanding the meaning of origin buried in the letter of the already given names, as though any name was the transparent mask of a sleeping "metamorphosis" toward the source of which the hearing of the poem moves.

"Poem" is the nomination capable of saluting such a manifestation, receiving and giving greeting and salvation, inasmuch as the saving / greeting is exchange, saluting.

Poetic nomination cannot then be arbitrary, but must wait to receive saving / greeting in order to save/greet in return. (A, 245-47).