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Among Dante’s concerns that still speak to us we find the separation of the political powers of church and state, and the emphasis on libero arbitrio, free will, in the proper conduct of citizens as regards both an individual’s civil life and their overarching ethics. With that goes the crucial question of judgment: though often unwittingly, people do pass judgment on how one and the others in a society do or must act in order to attain a civil, we might say more democratic, coexistence. The key is the human’s capacity to understand (intellectus) and then act (voluntas) by relying on the consciousness of the agent to choose what course to follow. It’s an ethical and sociopolitical question. Dante had already explored the centrality of human agency and the responsibility that goes with the greatest gift bestowed on humans by God: the freedom to choose, to shape their life, to intervene in society. In that sense, he is still speaking to us. The paper starts with a reading of Canto 16 of Purgatory.