



Italy 2319 M000521

**A 19th Century Italian Oil on Canvas, “Dante Sketching La Pia”**, depicting the subject from Canto V of The Divine Comedy, where Dante meets the spirit of a lady of Siena who was imprisoned by her loveless older husband, Nello della Pietra, in a Maremma fortress on the Tuscan coast, and eventually died from his neglect . The open prayer book signifies her name, translated



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as “The Pious.” Here, the husband sits sternly while La Pia (allegorical for Dante’s muse Beatrice Portinari, the object of his lifetime secret and courtly love and devotion-he called her “the queen of virtue and salvation”. He met Beatrice at the age of 9 (she was 8), but never spoke to her again...she married her real life husband, Simon de’ Bardi, and died at 24, as did La Pia ) is sketched by Dante disguised as a nobleman

Height 77 1/8; Width 61 3/4"