

**PARALLEL PRECURSORS FOR THE ORDER AND DISORDER IN JOSHUA
LOGAN'S 1956 FILM "BUS STOP"**

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The plot of this film will be paralleled with the ancient Greek myth of the wedding of the Lapiths and the consequent disturbance caused by the Centaurs, and also with the three divisions of hierarchy in Dante's "Divine Comedy."

In the Greek myth, the Centaurs, who attempted to abduct the brides of the Lapiths (Giants) interrupted the Lapiths' wedding. Apollo, the Greek god of order and law, appears in the center of the wedding feast and establishes order by expulsing the Centaurs.

In Dante's "Divine Comedy," Dante is guided through the Inferno and Purgatorio by the ghost of Virgil, who leaves him before showing him the Paradiso.

The film follows the career of an unsophisticated cowboy, Beau. Who leaves his ranch temporarily for the big city to compete in the rodeo there. He also hopes to find the woman of his dreams there (his "angel"). His only experience has been with his ranch animals, however, and when he finds a nightclub singer, Cherie, who fulfills his expectations, and who is also attracted to him, he courts her in the very same way that he uses to deal with animals that he is trained to dominate.

Since his mentor, the aged but kindly Virgil, lacks the physical force to curb Beau's harassment of Cherie, it remains for another to accomplish this. Touched by Beau's apology and maturation, Cherie accepts Beau's proposal, and Virgil leaves his charge so that he returns home with only Cherie.

The plot of the film will be compared with both works cited, and the Divine Comedy will be seen to also suggest further parallels with the three parts of Greek drama and the three stages of the spiritual life.