



Dante holding his *Divine Comedy* with views of Florence, Heaven, Purgatory and Hell

## 2 Early Europeans

Some of the earliest records of what people thought about Earth were being written by the ancient Greeks and Romans just prior to the arrival of the first farmers with their herds of domesticated sheep and cattle in southern Africa at the Cape roughly 2000 years ago. Prior to farming, everyone was a hunter-gatherer and likely had animist world views broadly similar to those of the San outlined above. Europeans had been farming for thousands of years prior to the spread of agriculture into southern Africa. Farming allowed for much more populated city centres to develop than was possible by hunting and gathering. These early city-states gave rise to small elite classes of people who could spend time on a wide variety of pursuits, such as religion and philosophy. The invention of writing and an alphabet allowed for the recording of some of the earliest philosophising about Earth.