

## The Plight of Women in T.S.Eliot's 'The Waste Land'

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### Abstract

An Anglo-American poet, critic, dramatist, and editor, Thomas Stearns Eliot was a major innovator in modern English poetry, famous above all for his revolutionary poetry. Eliot has in many of his poems, portrayed as hero that man who feels a sense of his own inadequacy and impotence, and who is painfully aware of the banality and futility of his own life as well as of life in general. In his poems, Eliot points out that the degeneration of modern civilization is caused by loss of faith in religion, lack of human relationship, commercialism of love, mental tension and politics and wars. This paper highlights on his view about the futility of the 20<sup>th</sup> century people in various societies. The alienation of the conscious individual among the unthinking masses is seen as responsible for the sordid and morality. The poet calls the city London an unreal city because lust, cheating-go on freely. In this paper, I would also like to highlight the plight of women and their spiritual bankruptcy that led to total despondency in T.S.Eliot's poetry. The sacrifice of women in many civilizations of all time in T.S.Eliot's poetry represent the root of sterility in spiritual, moral and productive world resulting to nonexistence.

### Introduction

Modernist writers like T.S.Eliot lived and wrote in the capital cities of Great Britain and Europe, using the city as a source of inspiration and research tool. 'The Waste Land' of T.S.Eliot has a direct relationship to modern life. The agony, horror, spiritual sterility of modern life are represented which are so inevitable that any human-being does not wish to deceive him with systematic lies. In his poetry he leaned towards a pessimistic sense of urban failure, and a feeling of mixed fascination and revulsion which are discernible in his writings. My aim is to reveal the personal disaster, loneliness, dejection, alienation and spiritual sterility that are experienced by everyone in this city which evolved problems while living in this city. The Waste Land sees history as a spiritual epic. Therefore Eliot highlights the ugliness of the present in relation to the past. The is an important land-mark in the 20<sup>th</sup> century literature and it reveals the disillusionment caused by the First World War. It also shows dissatisfaction with the scientific achievement and industrial progress in Europe. Therefore it ushers new values of modern society. The epigraph to the poem suggests the death wish of modern European people. It also points to the theme of death and decay in the waste land. It is based on the story of the Cumae, a Sibyl who was the beloved of Apollo. She asked Apollo to grant her as many years as the grains of sand in her land but carelessly she forgot to ask for eternal youth. Hence she became old and finally shrank so small by her age that she was hung up in a cage and could only say: 'I want to die'. The sibyl links the medieval legend to classical myth. Her misfortune to be shut in a cage and to wither away indefinitely being preserved from death is condemned like Tithonus. To grow old symbolizes the condition of the people of waste land. It also points to the theme of death and decay in The Waste Land. Furthermore it also suggests the death wish of modern European people. The poet sees the modern world as a waste land in which every experience is colored by the feelings of death in life.

This poem is a social document. It throws light on the living condition of people belonging to different section of society in the modern world. It is a representative of the Aristocratic class in the German Princess of the section I. She is fond of travel. She is an example of a rootless modern person. She has no connection with her family, community and nation. She is a kind of International traveler, fond of the physical comforts of life. As she and her lover go through Munich, they face a shower of rain. As they do not realize the purifying power of rain rather they try to avoid it. There is another woman representative of high society called 'the Lady of Situation'. Her drawing room is all with beauty, glamour and synthetic perfume. She is a neurotic, waiting for her lover at night. Both these ladies are over sensual, over sensitive, and suffer from nervous breakdown. Among the males of the upper executives, having fun with the girls at the picnic spot near the Thames; there is the rich merchant; a representative of the commercial section of the society full of sensuality. Eugenides is fond of perversity of sex. To the middle class society belongs Madame Sosostriis, the fortune-teller who entertains people with all kinds of tricks. Among the lower classes is Lil whose husband has just returned from army and wants to have a good time. Albert went to war four years ago, giving her lot of money for her dental treatment but she misused that money in sensual enjoyment. But the pills have ruined her health. All these point to the inconstancy in the married life of the lower people. Then there is the typist girl who wants mechanical life and does not crave for love. Finally, we have the song of three daughters of the river Thames who lost their chastity at the hands of several people. Eliot suggests that the same sense of sensuousness which dominated Queen Elizabeth I and Earl of Leicester is found among the poor classes on the banks of the river Thames.

## Description

Eliot comments, Tiresias, although a mere spectator and indeed a character is the most important personage in the poem, uniting all the rest. Tiresias has the experience of life both as a man and as a woman. Tiresias belongs to the past and to the present. He is link between the wasteland of king Oedipus caused by his incest and the waste land of modern of modern civilization. He can comment on the modern waste land through his prophetic vision. The whole poem is dominated by the nightmarish vision of the great modern city. Eliot used the words of Inferno to describe the city crowd that flowed up the hill and down the 'king William Street' because only it could define the depth of their desolation. Eliot's view of the post-war world, a land unfit for the heroes to live in. The title "Burial of the Dead" refers firstly to the burial of the dead fertility and secondly the burial service of the Christian church. In both burials, there is rebirth. The citizens of waste land do not like to be disturbed from the futile routine of the modern city life.

Hence, the idea of spiritual regeneration is unattractive and painful to them. So the poem begins with the lines:

'April is the cruelest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land. '(The Waste Land,)

Thomas Stearns Eliot's *The Waste land* presents a galaxy of characters. Some women characters include a priestess, a princess, a fortune -teller, a lady of the upper class, a lower middle class girl, a typist girl as well as the girls of the river Thames. None of them is happy in the true sense. In the Epigraph we come across the Sybil at Cumae who was hung in a cage. Children threw stones at her and asked, "What do you want?" In answer, she said, 'I want to die.'" This very Sybil asked for as many years to live as there were grains of sands in her grasp from Apollo as a boon. In other words she asked for immortality but she forgot to ask for immortal youth like Tithonus who also suffered from old age. At last Tithonus said that a man should not try to vary from the race of man. This Sybil at Cumae out of old age shrank and shrank to become so small that she was kept in a cage. It is the irony of fate that the person who wanted immortality is now longing for death..

She represents the death- wish of the twentieth century people. Lacking faith, they have no hope for resurrection and their life on this earth is full of frustration, anguish, uncertainty and anxiety to survive. According to Eliot, man may be motivated to die physically with the objective of living spiritually ever after.

The next woman is princess Marie Larsch, a countess and a relation of king Ludwing. The German princess ( I am not a Russian at all.... a pure German from Lithuania ) is an embodiment of the root -less ness of European citizens. In this society summer and winter are mere seasons which indicate bodily comfort or discomfort. So, she goes with the Archduke to the south in the winter. Her memories of childhood and her desire for physical comfort reveal her superficial state of living which is a common aspect of the sterile life of boredom of the inhabitants of 'The Waste Land'. Her autobiography, 'My Past', records her experience of sledging with the Archduke , her cousin. When she was frightened, the archduke told her to hold him tightly so that she might not fall down. In the mountains she felt so free because that place was free from palace intrigues. Later on she was assassinated.

Madame Sosostris is a major character as she presents the figures in the Tarot pack of cards. The figures in the cards also present the major symbols in the poem. The cards remind the Egyptian tradition of using the cards for predicting the rise and fall of the Nile waters which is connected with the events of highest cultural importance of ancient civilization. Madame Sosostris uses the cards for vulgar fortune -telling. It indicates the decline of values in modern society. She deals in an illicit business of making horoscope for others . She is falsely regarded as the wisest woman in Europe. She tells one customer to tell Mrs. Equitone that her horoscope is ready but she is scared about the police as her business is illicit-"one must be so careful these days." She lacks peace of mind.

In the second section we come across Belladonna (A beautiful woman in Italy), a society lady. She resembles Cleopatra or Belinda. The chair she sat on glowed on the marble floor and it reminds us of Cleopatra's barge. In the chair fruited vines are wrought from which a cupid peeped out, another hid his eyes behind his wings. There is a paneled ceiling where a seven branched candelabra was shining which seemed to touch her jewelry.

In the dressing table, there were satin cases from where synthetic perfumes came out in rich profusion. In the ceiling, dolphins wrought with colored stones swam. On the walls, there was the sylvan scene where Philomel was abused by force by her sister Procne's husband, King Tereus who cut her tongue but she managed to weave her sad story in a cloth which she sent to Procne. Procne in revenge cut up her own son and served it in a dish to Tereus and as soon as the king discovered it, he pursued his wife who fled to Philomel. Gods then changed Tereus into a hawk, Procne into a swallow, and Philomel into a nightingale. There were many other legendary characters represented in the drawing room for decorative purpose only .They have lost their vitality and moral significance in the modern waste land and they are the stumps of dead trees, relics of the dead past. Lady Belladonna waits for her lover and hears the foot steps slowly mounting up the stairs. She is combing her hair under the blaze of light in a state of nervous excitement caused by the impending visit of her lover. The neurotic society woman is trying to make her silent lover into speech. The neurotic condition of the woman is

expressed through her questionings. She first begs him to speak but he cannot speak, he simply meditates on his thoughts which show the emotional starvation of modern life. She asks, "what is the wind doing?" He answers "nothing". While he mocks, she is afflicted by the nervousness and boredom of a meaningless life. She only thinks of rushing out into the street with her hair down.

In the second half of *A Game Of Chess* the problem of married life is described in the conversation of two cockney women in a London pub. It is a pub or a public place as we hear the barman saying, "Hurry up ,please, its time." He announces the closing time of the bar. We hear Loe, the deceitful and treacherous friend of Lil. Loe is talking about the incident of Lil's abortion which is connected with the theme of sterility of the waste land. Loe advises Lil to give Albert a good time who will return from war after four years. Lil misused the money that Albert gave her for her dental treatment and broke her health by frequent abortion. She also advises Lil to look smart and attractive replacing her bad set of teeth otherwise there are other women who will satisfy him. Loe also informs that Lil looks so antique at thirty-one that her husband can't bear to look at her as she spent all the money Albert gave her on pills to avoid conception.

Next we get the description of the female typist who works all day like a machine. She raises her eyes and comes back home from the machine in the evening. Her dull heart throbs with human warmth as she waits to be released from her boring work at the desk. She finishes her meal in a hurry in tin-pots as her lover, a young man carbuncular pimples grew out of too much exhaustion .She is feeling uneasy and awkward. He is shrewd enough to guess her helplessness. He knows the proper time to come and make love with the girl who is tired and bored. She will not resist his caresses though she may not take active interest in love making. He thinks her indifference as her consent. After the act is over, he does not waste time in conversation. He gives her a parting kiss and moves to the unlit stairs. After the departure of the lover, she looks to the mirror whether any harm is done to her hair or complexion. She is mentally relieved to know that the act is over and puts a record on the gramophone to cheer her spirits.

Next we listen to the song of the three Thames daughters. Each of them was violated but they accept this violation with resignation. They are the victims of fraud and each one has her own story of lust and outrage. The first Thames daughter was undone by pleasure seekers in a narrow canoe at Richmond, a vacation spot at Thames. The second daughter's ravishing haunts her always. She remembers after the act the ravisher was repentant and promised a new start but she kept silence as he cannot undo what was done to her. Her life is full of despair. The third with finger nails of dirty hands deceived at Margate is the same typist girl again. She sits among the honest humble people who expect nothing but suffer wrongs at the hands of powerful male brutes.

Reviewing all the characters both legendary and modern, it can be concluded that women always have been victims of oppression by men. The Sybil when asked for immortality, Apollo, the sun-god did not warn her of the futility of her wish. As a result her boon of immortality turned into a curse. The princess Marie asserts that she is not a Russian but a German. Her loss of nationality, points to the refugee problem after the First World War. Her sledging with her lover in the mountains cannot give her true joy as she is unscrupulous of physical pleasure.

Madam Sosostri is ever scared of the police as she deals in an illicit trade of fortune – telling though she is regarded as the wisest woman in Europe. The lady of situations or Belldona in spite of her gorgeous dressing table ,art, architecture, sculpture presented in the ceiling and walls of her room ,suffers from neurotic problems. The presence of her lover does not bring any solace. Rather she wants to run to the streets with her hairs open. Similar is the case with Lil or the typist girl . Lil lost her youth due to frequent abortions and is sure to be deserted by her husband when he comes back from war. The typist girl does not get true joy from her lover and she seeks artificial pleasure by putting a record on the gramophone. The three Thames girls for ever lament for the violation of their chastity by the rich pleasure-seekers. The legendary sisters Philomel and Procne could avoid the torture of King Tereus when gods turned Philomel into a Nightingale and Procne into a swallow. So, T. S. Eliot has tried to show that women's life have been a life of agony, torture and pain which can be appeased by the exercise of the lessons of Upanishad- to give, to sympathize ,and to control.

The generation during the dawn and dusk of the First World War has been characterized by a great depression. This generation was marked by the depressed state of humanity which has been brought by the wrath and atrocity of the war. During this gloomy generation, the cultural ideals of love, peace and hope have been greatly challenged by the dreadful realities that the world faced. This saddening truth has been depicted in literature where a lot of authors creatively portrayed the destruction of humanity as well as the downfall of the values and ideals that were previously seen to change the world. During this part of the twentieth century, a lot of people relied on literature in enriching their consciousness and wisdom about the realities of life. This made the field of literature gain a considerable amount of power during that time. Authors became popular like celebrities, and people's inclination to novels and poetry became unequalled. One of the most renowned authors in the generation was Thomas Sterns Eliot who was eventually more popularly known as T. S. Eliot. His poems were observed to carry the truest yet also the most painful realities in the society. One of his most valued works throughout his entire career was 'The Wasteland '(1922).

This story has been regarded as one of Eliot's most important works and one of his most relevant masterpieces as it conveys and reflects the climate and environment during its time (Rai 1). In this story, Eliot was not just able to depict the destruction of the human consciousness as well as humanity, but he was also able to present clearly, what made literature so powerful during this era. This piece of literary work has become one of the most reviewed and appraised novels during Eliot's time. Its themes that have explored on different aspects of humanity have been perceived to create dramatic implication in the 20th century society. But aside from depicting the saddening truth about the loss of humanity after the World War I, it was also observed how Eliot creatively portrayed the roles of women during that time. Aside from the destruction of values and morals, Eliot was also able to display the harsh and suppressive lives of women during the Victorian era. During this age, the implicative roles of gender and sexuality were realized through literary works like *The Wasteland* of T. S. Eliot. This work apparently served as an eye-opener about the realities of sexuality that, during that time, were intentionally taken for granted. Hence, after perceiving the considerable significance of Eliot's *The Wasteland*, this discussion shall delve on exploring the major themes and ideals presented in this work. This discussion shall also work on building up the claim that Eliot's *The Wasteland* is an appropriate exemplar of a piece of literature which presents the punishing and painful realities of women's life during the twentieth century, as well as their enslaved role during repressive Victorian era..

### **An Analysis of The Waste land Through Ideologies, Themes and Characterizations Applied:**

In this endeavor of analyzing and exploring how Eliot's work depicted the roles of women during the twentieth century, it may appear important to understand the meaning and message poem first before going deep into the technical literary aspects. As a whole, Eliot's *The Waste Land* basically delves on the ideals of death, sex and unhappiness. In the first part, Eliot immediately counters the notion of Chaucer about the month of April. Instead of depicting this month as the season of life and regeneration,

Eliot prefers presenting this month as the darkest, as what can be perceived in his opening line which says, "April is the cruellest month" (Eliot 55). Some critics even regard Eliot's depiction as a depiction of hell. Fernan Nuhn once remarked that "it may be useful to look upon *The Waste Land* as one of a series of poetic 'descents into hell'" (Nuhn, qtd. in Donker 164). What follows in this introductory chapter is the discussion of the natural cycle of death. In the succeeding parts of the poem, Eliot reveals how death can steal positivism away from the world. The author also depicts death in a lot of ways such as through work, war and unhappiness. As the poem runs along, the author then transits from the theme of death to sexuality. In this part of the poem, the author reveals the association of women to sex slavery. The author appears to empathize with women who were seen as mere sex objects during the repressive generation of the Victorian Era. There were also explicit representations of loveless sexual intercourses that somehow present the painful reality that during those times, some women were just regarded as sex objects of men. Hopelessness and despair were also portrayed through phrases as "As a rat crept softly through the vegetation / Dragging its slimy belly on the bank" (61). From this part, Eliot then transits to images that depict sex, death and rape. And again, the gruesome torture and maltreatment on women as mere sex objects was portrayed. Basically, the poem presented a gloomy and distressing atmosphere. It was able to depict the depression caused by the war, as well as the depression which emanated from women who have been abused and maltreated during the repressive generation of the Victorian era.

These are the major ideals and themes presented in the poem. These ideals can already present how women were portrayed during the twentieth century; however, this can still be further explicated by going into the ideologies and perspectives the author applied in this piece of literature.

Modernism can easily be associated to T. S. Eliot's works. This is because the height of his career can be perceived to be characterized by this genre. Modernism has been tried to define by several thinkers over the years.

However, up to this date, there appears no concrete definition of modernism. According to Peter Childs, who explicated on the ideal of modernism in his book, *Modernism*, this genre cannot be defined in a single view. According to Childs, there are several perspectives in defining this term. In talking under the time-bound perspective, modernism can be defined as a genre "located in the years 1890, 1930, with a wider acknowledgement that it develops from the mid-nineteenth century and begins to lose its influence in the mid-twentieth century" (Childs 18). Considering this definition, Eliot's work can easily be categorized as modernist piece of work as it falls under the time frame. Aside from this, Childs notes that the meaning of modernism can also be viewed according to the genre-bound perspective. In this view, "modernism is associated with innovation and novelty", and is "stretched to include such British and Irish figures as John Donne, William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Laurence Sterne" (18). Although Eliot was not mentioned in this roster of popular modernists, his works nonetheless fall under the categories of innovation as it tackles some of the newest and most controversial issues that were not touched by popular literature during his time.



Modernism has been very dominant during Eliot's course of completing *The Waste Land*. This might have been the greatest factor which made him lean on such a genre during the completion of the poem. However, aside from this, it appears that the context of the poem, as well as the author's environment during that time also played important roles. Modernism was found to be greatly affected by humanism (Kirkham 15). This was observed not just in literature but also in arts and in architecture. Considering the generation when *The Waste Land* was published, it can be recalled that the society was filled with issues concerning humanism. During this period, a lot of issues on morality were realized. Since people were dealing with post-war days, it was inevitable that some people was not yet getting over the atrocity and violence the war brought. During this time, the society, especially the English and American societies have been clouded by gloom and hostility that gave way to serious societal predicaments such as crimes and corruption. People's minds have also been clouded evil and greed as people seek for resources that have been left after the war.

However aside from this ideology, Eliot's leaning to gender issues has been apparent in his work. Over the years, issues on gender and sexuality seem to never grow old. It has been perceived as an embedded ideal in the patriarchal structure of the society especially during the earlier times (Bondi 245). Any literary work which depicts these issues seem to be regarded highly by the society despite the controversies and the perceived sensitivity of such topics. The world's introduction to gender issues has also been set in time with Eliot's ideation of *The Waste Land*. In 1990s, gender was officially explicated by a team of collaborators who worked on the ideals of both gender and modernism. In their study of gender, it has been explicated as,

“a category constructed through cultural and social systems. Unlike sex, it is not a biological fact determined as conception [...] Gender is more fluid, flexible, and multiple in its options than the (so far) unchanging biological binary of male and female. In history, across cultures, and in the lifetime development of the individual, there are variations in what it means to be masculine, or feminine, in the availability of identifications such as asexual and androgynous, and in the social implications of lesbian, homosexual, and heterosexual orientations.” (Scott 1)

Considering this explication of what gender is, it can be observed through Eliot's work that he completely understood this concept. In *The Waste Land*, Eliot's consideration to homosexual issues was clearly depicted in the explicit desire of the character, Mr. Eugenides to have a homosexual affair with the poet. Eliot, unlike several poets from his generation, was never afraid to present such sensitive and crucial issues on gender. During the decade when this work was published, the society was not yet that tolerant on homosexual issues. But in his endeavor to encourage discourses on this subject matter, Eliot daringly explored on this aspect of gender alongside other sensitive issues that deal with gender discrimination and inequality.

It has indeed been apparent that Eliot never became disinclined in presenting sensitive societal issues such as homosexuality. However, as compared to this issue, it can be observed that the author delved more on the issue regarding the roles of women during the Victorian era.

The Victorian era was characterized by the repressive nature of its society. This was the time when women were never granted the opportunities and privileges that were able to men enjoy education, freedom of expression and professional opportunities. This predicament has long been attributed to the traditional nature of this period; however, what makes this issue more problematic are the events abusive and discriminant treatments against women that caused several feminist movements. In *The Wasteland*, several depictions of maltreatment and abuse of women were depicted. In lines 96 to 104, the function of women as mere sex objects by men was portrayed, but in a rather symbolical manner:

“In which sad light a carved dolphin swam.  
Above the antique mantel was displayed  
As though a window gave upon the sylvan scene  
The change of Philomel, by the barbarous king  
So rudely forced; yet there the nightingale  
Filled all the desert with inviolable vice  
And still she cried, and still the world pursues  
'Jug Jug' to dirty ears.  
And other withered stumps of time.” (Eliot 58)

In these lines, a rape scenario can be observed through lines like “so rudely forced” which explicitly portrays an intimate act which is against the Philomel's will. In a lot of ways, this event represents the reality which is incontestable during that period of the Victorian era.

During that time, hearing about cases of women being raped either by some unknown attacker or their own husbands do not seem like odd or surprising events. People have been used to hearing cases like this, and people were not enforced to act on such cases as if they were illegal or unjust. This presents a painful reality that there was really a time in the past when women do not have the right to protest whenever they were being forced into a sexual intercourse. In the context of today's law, this is popularly known as rape; however, back in the old times, this is but a case where a woman had to submit to whatever her husband commands, since she is bound to

serve him. In a lot of ways, Eliot appeared very concerned about the painful realities of gender and sexuality during his time. As it appears, during the time when the entire society was being blinded by the unacceptable roles of women, Eliot was already aware that the situation does appear objectionable. Eliot was also able to present his thoughts on the perceived roles of women in a rather implicit manner. If today, women are already seen as independent and competent members of the society, during that time, Eliot witnessed a different thing. During those days, Eliot has been used to seeing women like slaves not just of their own husbands but also slaves of the torturous and maltreating society. These appear to be the main reasons why this work appears to be very expressive on the author's views on the issues regarding gender and sexuality. Apparently, the society during the Victorian era has been so repressive of women's rights that gender inequality and insensitivity was easily perceived. Aside from the apparent issues on morality from which the society is suffering during that time, Eliot preferred to capture one of the most sensitive issues which he thinks the society needs to address (Scott 113). Indeed, this explains why gender appears to be one of the most dominant themes in this work alongside modernism. Apparently, these ideals are the two most talked-about concepts during the time.

#### Perceived Significance of Eliot's Work

Eliot regards consistency in poetry as one of its most powerful features. With this he considers poets, like Shakespeare, as 'great' since they are able to create one single meaning out of their works.

Eliot specifically notes,

“the whole of Shakespeare's work is one poem [...] and it is the poetry of it in this sense, not the poetry of isolated lines and passages or the poetry of single figures which he created, that matters most [...] one significant consistent and developing personality.” (Eliot, qtd. in Raine xix)

Considering this, Eliot must have also considered himself as 'great'. Although *The Waste Land* portrayed several issues and ideals of the twentieth century, it was nonetheless able to displace one single message. As it appears, Eliot's utmost concern was the moral stability of the society during the Victorian era. Considering the wrath and hostility that were brought by the war, a lot of people found it hard to bring back the positivity and pleasingness in their environment. Because of this several societal issues inevitably rose, such as issues on Gender and Sexuality. Gender inequality was just one of the major issues that branched out from the moral instability after the First World War. And Eliot's depiction of this issue can be considered as one of the major milestone which brought about the larger feminist movement which fought against gender inequality and discrimination. Although critics have already tagged Eliot's poetic style as humorously vulgar and somewhat ribald (Chinitz 329), they were unable to defy the significance of this work in terms of reflecting the painful realities of the Victorian era. It was not denied that this work of Eliot has to be considered as one of the best portrayal of how grueling and absurd the roles of women have been during that period. Moreover, it can not also be denied that this work of Eliot touches several other issues which helped people be awakened about how bad the society has got. Considering this, the significance of this work by T. S. Eliot can indeed be regarded as one of his most valuable works. It proves the claim that literature during the Victorian era has indeed played a powerful and implicative role as his work, *The Waste Land*, was able to induce some positive effects on the general awareness on gender equality. This work has also given birth to a lot of feminist movements that fought against gender discrimination, which is one concrete sign of how suggestive and relevant this work has been over the years.

The plight of women is common in every woman character irrespective of class in 'The Waste Land.' The Sybil at Cumae has been suffering from wrong decision out of greed for immortality and the burden of age. The German princess can not find peace of mind because she indulged in physical illicit pleasure and also from identity crisis.

With a shower of rain: we stopped in the colonnade'

And went on in sunlight, into the Hofgarten,

And drank coffee, and talked for an hour.

Bin gar keine Russian, stamm aus Litauen, echt deutsch.

The fortune-teller Madame Sosostris is regarded as the wisest women in Europe but cheats people with seventy eight pack of cards. Sosostris is always in a panic about the police as she deals with illicit business. Lady of Situation though an aristocrat and a rich lady ,suffers from nervous breakdown which is common in all modern world. Middle and lower class women have no ethics about chastity which they lose and lament.

After having read and analyzed Eliot's poetry, it can be said that Eliot has been one of the most daring and fearless authors of the twentieth century. Considering how venturesome he was in depicting the most sensitive issues on morality and sexuality, Eliot's ability avant-garde nature appears incontestable. His ability to package his words in a stirring manner has also influenced “his poetry, drama, and critical ideas far more heavily than has been generally realized” (Hargrove 62). But above all this, what appears commendable in this work was the explicit representation of the reality on women's roles during the Victorian era.

This work by Eliot undeniably serves as one of the best reflections on how repressive the Victorian was

really like. Thus, it can be said that Eliot's most poems serve as appropriate examples of a piece of literature which presents the punishing and painful realities of women's life during the twentieth century, as well as their enslaved role during the repressed Victorian age.

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