Letter to the Editor

J. Aleksandr Wootton

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Abstract
A reply to a point made by Andrew Lazo in his essay in *Mythlore* #130 about Lewis's comments on T.S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

Additional Keywords

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**J. Aleksandr Wootton**

*In *Mythlore* 35.2, Andrew Lazo began his paper* with excerpts from Eliot’s *Love Song* and Lewis’s *Confession: an engaging entrance to an insightful offering.*

Fuller treatment of the two poems’ dialogue would not have served Andrew’s thesis, which needed them only for a springboard. But I should like to observe, in Eliot’s defense, that in *Prufrock* it is of course only a bit of grammatical misdirection which implies that “evening” is “like a patient etherized upon a table,” a misdirection which cunningly reflects a reversal of cosmic perception in the modern era. Evening is “spread out against the sky,” there to be studied and dissected; man as detached observer. Whereas according to the medieval model, well-known to Lewis, it is “we” who are the patient, under the influence of *aether* (that which gods breathe, through which the affecting planets move, and from which the medical anesthetic got its name); we who are being operated on by heavenly powers.

I would add as well, in Lewis’s defense, that this subtle acknowledgment of the overturned cosmos is unlikely to have escaped his attention; therefore, that the “coarseness” of which he complains in *Confession* is a mere conceit. Poets such as these do not converse superficially.

Sincerely,

Jack

**J. Aleksandr Wootton** is the author of FAYBORN: contemporary fairytale-fantasy that invites our old friends from *Marchen* and classic literature along for new adventures in the present era. In spare time, Wootton chairs the Folklore Department at Lightfoot College. More at www.jackwootton.com.