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Letter to the Editor

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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

This notes and letters is available in Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature: https://dc.swosu.edu/mythlore/vol36/iss1/16

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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.