

ELIOT

He was a poet, essayist, dramatist of American origin. He became an English citizen and he became one of the most famous European writers. Cosmopolitan attitude to culture: he absorbed part of the American cultural heritage and he transported it into the European panorama and he enriched his production with a bit of everything.

His career is divided into two main phases:

- 1) ideas related to anxiety, solitude, aridity, sterility
- 2) Starts with his conversion to the Anglican religion, would open to a new vision of the world, where sterility is replaced by fertility and anxiety by certainty.

The poem we analyse are related to the first phase>

- the love song of J. Alfred Prufrock, a long dramatic monologue
- The hollow men, about the lack of value which according to Eliot the modern man has.
- Journey of the Magi, a shorter dramatic monologue. This poet introduces the hope that Eliot had found in a better future.

In Yates production, Sailing to Byzantium (last poem read) also represents a new belief in life and a new dimension in life (eternity of art). In Eliot, the new dimension is his faith.

Need of both poets to have new foundation to their own existence and to give certainty to other human beings.

Journey of the magi, where Christ was born.

The hollow men and the waste land force the need to find new certainties, but the poet is not ready yet to give a new solution.

Objective correlative

An object reminds the person of an emotion and it provokes in that specific situation the re-experience of emotion or any emotional reaction connected to the object (epiphany, moment of being). An external element corresponds to the emotion of the character, which the author translates. Objective because it relates to something that can be physically perceived.

Dissociation of sensibility

Referred by Eliot to the metaphysical poets, in whom he recognises a similarity between his own approach to reality and the one of the seventeenth century poets (John Donne?). These poets were not understood nor appreciated in their own time. Eliot rediscovered them and gave them value. They shocked and amazed the reader by combining discordant images or expression from different fields of knowledge. In them, Eliot appreciated the union between thought and feelings> he said that for John Donne every thought was an experience, so he transported this thought into his poems, making them a universal experience. So he had this dissociated sensibility between the two levels of perception of reality. According to Eliot, modern poets have a similar approach to reality. Conversion between thought and feelings.