

The Impact of the Adittapariyaya Sutta in the Meaning-making of T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land: A critical Analysis

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Abstract : The Ādittapariyāya Sutta, also known as the Fire Sermon is an important Buddhist text that addresses the nature of sensual pleasures and attachment through the metaphor of fire. Eliot makes use of this in his epic poem The Waste Land. Though scholars have studied Eliot's long poem for traces of eastern philosophy, no scholars have touched upon the idea of how the Adittapariyaya Sutta has enabled the meaning making endeavor of the poem. The present study attempts to address this research gap by undertaking a critical analysis of the Fire Sermon of The Waste Land by undertaking an interdisciplinary study of the poem using two methods—a literary and Buddhist reading methods, namely objective correlative and the three-pillared Buddhist ideas of Anicca (impermanence), Dukkha (suffering) and Anatta (No-self). Thus, the study explores the Ādittapariyāya Sutta's thematic concerns of impermanence, suffering and no-self within the context of The Waste Land. The setting of the poem symbolizes spiritual desolation and existential crisis. By comparing Sutta's teachings with modern existential concerns, which is depicted in T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land, the analysis emphasizes the relevance of Buddhist insights to contemporary issues of meaning and disillusion.

Keywords : Adittapariyaya Sutta, Objective correlative, Eastern Philosophy, Sensual pleasures

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