

ULYSSES

II
Nestor

Initial Notes

- Linati Schema:
 - 9-10 a.m.
 - Significance: the wisdom of the old world
- Characters from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*:
 - Cranly
 - Temple
 - McCann

Wisdom of the Old World Requires Memory

- “Fabled by the daughters of memory. And yet it was in some way if not as memory fabled it. A phrase, then, of impatience, thud of Blake’s wings of excess. I hear the ruin of all space, shattered glass and toppling masonry, and time one livid final flame. What’s left us then?”
 - As Stephen teaches history (the Pyrrhic War, 279 B.C.), he considers the past. The “daughters of memory” are the 9 muses – daughters of Mnemosyne, the goddess of memory.

Stephen's Riddle

- Mr. E's theory...nobody knows for certain.

The cock crew

The sky was blue:

The bells in heaven

Were striking eleven.

'Tis time for this poor soul

To go to heaven.

The fox burying his grandmother under a hollybush.

Joyce's Version

The cock crew

The sky was blue:

The bells in heaven

Were striking eleven.

'Tis time for this poor soul

To go to heaven.

Original

Riddle me, riddle me right:

What did I see last night?

The wind blew,

The cock crew,

The bells of heaven

Struck eleven.

'Tis time for my poor sowl to go to heaven.

The fox burying his grandmother under a hollybush. The fox burying his mother under a holly tree.

There is a collection of old Irish riddles collected by Patrick Weston Joyce entitled "English As We Speak It In Ireland" from 1910 in which this is one. However, Joyce changes some of the words and phrases for his own purposes such as in the answer "mother" is the original as opposed to "grandmother" so we know Joyce knew of this riddle and altered it. The original has no clear meaning as it is designed to just be a frustrating joke on whoever tries to solve it. Joyce's alterations suggest there is more to his version.

Syllables

3 The cock crew

4 The sky was blue:

5 The bells in heaven

6 Were striking eleven.

6 'Tis time for this poor soul

7 To go to heaven.

The fox burying his grandmother under a hollybush.

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Past
Tense

Present Tense

The fox burying his grandmother under a hollybush.

Syllables	3	The cock crew	}	Past Tense
	4	The sky was blue:		
	5	The bells in heaven		
	6	Were striking eleven.		
DISJOINTED FROM POEM	6	'Tis time for this poor soul	}	Present Tense
	7	To go to heaven.		

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	4	The sky was blue:		
	5	The bells in heaven		
	6	Were striking eleven .		
DISJOINTED FROM POEM	6	'Tis time for this poor soul	}	Present Tense
	7	To go to heaven.		

The fox burying his grandmother under a hollybush.

Rudy, Leopold Bloom's son, would have been eleven-years-old if he had lived.

Dignam's funeral, which Bloom attends, is at 11 a.m.

It is in Book XI of *The Odyssey* that Odysseus travels to Hades, the realm of the dead.

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In Ogham, ancient Irish writing, the letter tinne  is “T” and in medieval kennings means “one of 3 parts of a wheel or weapon.”

6 out of 7 of the riddle’s lines begin with “T” and the odd one out has the word “eleven” (the number of syllables in the last 2 disjointed lines).

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To go to heaven.

The **fox** burying his **grandmother** under a **hollybush**.

In Ogham, ancient Irish writing, the letter tinne **┆┆┆** is “T” and in medieval kennings means “one of 3 parts of a wheel or weapon. All Ogham letters are associated with plants and tinne is associated with holly, which is one of 3 nouns in consecutive alphabetical order in the answer.

The cock crew
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To go to heaven.

The fox burying his grandmother under a hollybush.

Stephen refers to his mother in his own thoughts after revealing the answer to the riddle and says: "A poor soul gone to heaven: and on a heath beneath winking stars a fox, red reek of rapine in his fur, with merciless bright eyes scraped in the earth, listened, scraped up the earth, listened, scraped and scraped. Sitting at his side Stephen solved out his problem.

Foxes are also symbolic of cunning and wisdom, both traits Stephen sees in himself as a young man teaching his students. Also, Mr. Fox was the pseudonym Charles Stewart Parnell, the Irish nationalist, gave himself when writing to his mistress, Kitty O'Shea. And so here we have a touch of sin...something Stephen is no stranger to and something his very Catholic mother would be highly averse to.



The fox is Stephen burying his mother, but also the Vulpecula constellation (Fox) commonly seen in the northern hemisphere at its strongest in June/July.

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May, Stephen's mother, was a devout Catholic and a “grand mother” (as opposed to “grandmother”). She was interred on June 26. Holly is strongly associated with Christianity with its red berries symbolizing the blood of Christ and its thorny leaves symbolizing his crown.



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Rapine means the violent seizure of someone's property. This refers to the seizure of Stephen's family's property due to their financial state. The fox reeks because Stephen has a fear of water and rarely bathes.



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This last phrase which starts the next paragraph could refer to Stephen helping Sargent with his algebra, but it wasn’t “his problem” ...it was Sargent’s problem. This phrase could allude to the solution, instead, to his own subconscious riddle.

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Stephen clearly felt guilt over his mother's death, much as Joyce did for his mother. Stephen sees Sargent, struggling with his schoolwork, as a younger version of himself and thinks about how coddling mothers can be toward their children. This all comes together in his distorted version of the old Irish riddle to reveal his subconscious guilt.

Interestingly, in episode 15 (Circe), Stephen retells the riddle differently and drunkenly, but when attempting to explain it, he says, "Thirsty fox. (*He laughs loudly.*) Burying his grandmother. Probably he killed her." Drunk Stephen is the thirsty fox and so "he" is referring to Stephen; Stephen – much like Joyce – felt guilt that he was responsible for the death of his mother. As Stephen said in episode 15, "They said I killed you, mother...Cancer did it, not I. Destiny."

Repetitive Doxology of St. Thomas Aquinas

- "Stale smoky air hung in the study with the smell of drab abraded leather of its chairs. As on the first day he bargained with me here. **As it was in the beginning, is now.** On the sideboard the tray of Stuart coins, base treasure of a bog: **and ever shall be.** And snug in their spooncase of purple plush, faded, the twelve apostles having preached to all the gentiles: **world without end.**

Stephen's Views on Money

- “Stephen’s hand, free again, went back to the hollow shells. Symbols too of beauty and of power. A lump in my pocket. Symbols soiled by greed and misery.”
- “– Iago, Stephen murmured.” Stephen refers to Mr. Deasy during his speech about money as Iago, the only Shakespearean character to ever lie to the audience. This shows his distrust of money.
- “Mulligan, nine pounds, three pairs of socks, one pair brogues, ties. Curran, ten guineas. McCann, one guinea. Fred Ryan, two shillings. Temple, two lunches. Russell, one guinea, Cousins, ten shillings, Bob Reynolds, half a guinea, Köhler, three guineas, Mrs McKernan, five weeks’ board. The lump I have is useless.” Stephen pondered all the people he owed money to.
- Last sentence: “On his wise shoulders through the checkerwork of leaves the sun flung spangles, dancing coins.” Beautiful imagery.

Stephen vs Deasy

- “Again: a goal. I am among them, among their battling bodies in a medley, the **joust of life**. You mean that knockkneed mother’s darling who seems to be slightly crawsick? Jousts. Time shocked rebounds, shock by shock. *Jousts*, slush and uproar of battles, the frozen deathspew of the slain, a shout of spear spikes baited with men’s bloodied guts.”
 - **Conflict** - Game - *Battle joust*
- “I like to break a lance with you, old as I am.” - Mr. Deasy to Stephen
- “...the shells heaped in the cold stone mortar: whelks and money cowries and leopard shells...” Cowries are currency in west Africa and Stephen is realizing that schools, like the Church, are like hollow shells with their promises to society.

Deasy's Letter Read in the Fragments of Stephen's Mind

- “May I trespass on your valuable space. That doctrine of *laissez faire* which so often in our history. Our cattle trade. The way of all our old industries. Liverpool ring which jockeyed the Galway harbour scheme. European conflagration. Grain supplies through the narrow waters of the channel. The pluterperfect imperturbability of the department of agriculture. Pardoned a classical allusion. Cassandra. By a woman who was no better than she should be. To come to the point at issue.”
- Foot and mouth disease. Known as Koch's preparation. Serum and virus. Percentage of salted horses. Rinderpest. Emperor's horses at Mürzsteg, lower Austria. Veterinary surgeons. Mr Henry Blackwood Price. Curteous offer a fair trial. Dictates of common sense. Allimportant question. In every sense of the word take the bull by the horns. Thanking you for the hospitality of your columns.”

Mr. Deasy's Anti-Semitism

- “Mark my words, Mr Dedalus, he said. England is in the hands of the jews...As sure as we are standing here the jew merchants are already at their work of destruction. Old England is dying.” This will all contradict with the character of Leopold Bloom, whose ancestry is Jewish (first met in episode 4), but be supported by the nationalistic sentiments of the Citizen character in episode 12.
- “And that is why they are wanderers on the earth to this day.” Bloom wanders throughout Dublin during the day of the novel, June 16, 1904.
- “Ireland, they say, has the honour of being the only country which never persecuted the jews. Do you know that? No. And do you know why?...Because she never let them in, Mr Deasy said solemnly.”

Stephen's Philosophy on History

- Joyce wrote that the significance of this episode was “the wisdom of the old world.”
- “Is this old wisdom? He waits to hear from me.
 - History, Stephen said, is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake.”
- “The seas’ ruler. His seacold eyes looked on the empty bay: history is to blame: on me and on my words, unhating.” This stems from Haines’s comment from episode I.

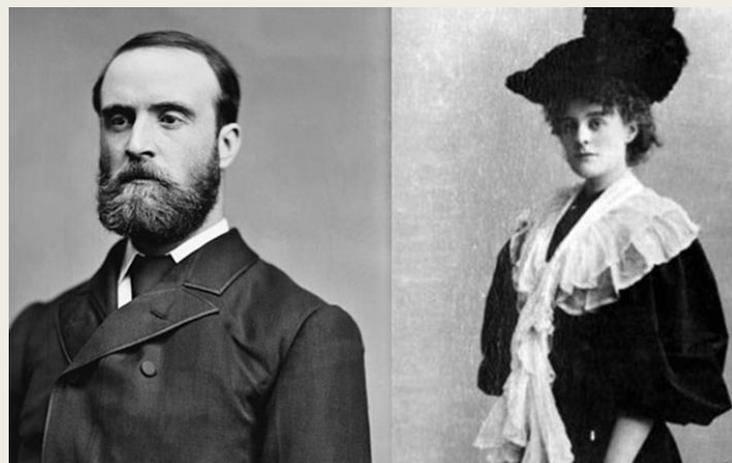
Stephen's Philosophy on God

- “Stephen jerked his thumb towards the window, saying:
 - That is God.
 - H**ooray! **Ay!** **Wh**rrrwhhee!
 - What? Mr Deasy asked.
 - A shout in the street, Stephen answered, shrugging his shoulders.”
- Interestingly, this somewhat heretic and proletariat sentiment is repeated throughout the novel.
- YHWH is a tetragrammaton (meaning consisting of four letters) for the four-letter biblical name of the God of Israel.

יהוה (Hebrew) = YHWH (Latin [pronounced “Yahweh”]) = God (English)

Homeric / Biblical / Historical Allusions

- “I am happier than you are, he said. We have committed many errors and many sins. **A woman brought sin into the world.** For a woman who was no better than she should be, Helen, the runaway wife of Menelaus, ten years the Greeks made war on Troy. A faithless wife first brought the strangers to our shore here, MacMurrough’s wife and her leman O’Rourke, prince of Breffni. *A woman too brought Parnell low.*”
- **Eve of the Old Testament**
- Helen of *The Iliad* of Homer
- *Katharine O’Shea with Charles Stewart Parnell, the Irish Nationalist*



KILKENNY - ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS, 1911 - 1912.
 Back Row: (L/R) Dr. Pierce Grace, John T. Power, Dick "Drug" Walsh, Jack Rochford, Denny Brennan, Dr. J.J. Brennan, Matt Gargan. Middle Row: Dick Grace, Dick Doherty, Jack Keogh, Sim Walton, Paddy "Icy" Lanigan, Jimmy Keely, Pat Clohosey, Dan Kennedy. Front Row: Dick Doyle, Mick Doyle, Eddie Doyle, Tom McCormack.