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Preface

T.S. Eliot is of incomparable significance and a vast source of inspiration and enlightenment for the readers who are interested in the variety of mysteries and profundity of human existence. For this purpose, his works will never be outdated and his inner grasp of the kaleidoscopic patterns of lives in all spheres can be considered as a great source of enlightenment for modern men’s crisis ridden insight. The age of T.S. Eliot was ridden with religious crisis and being a Christian, he was deeply influenced by the Biblical stories, incidents, myths, its teachings, Biblical symbolism, imagery from the very time he adopted Catholicism. He adopted catholic Christianity in 1927 and his compositions got colored in the Biblical units. It is this firm conviction about his Christian conscience that drove us to undertake a critical study of his works with a special emphasis on the religious dimensions showing the impact of the holy Bible and the Sunday masses. As we have found, it is the lent and the advent season in Christianity, which formulates a major part of his poetry.

As Eliot said, "I am an Anglo-Catholic in religion, a classicist in literature, and a royalist in politics." He exaggerated his own conservatism. The ideas of this scintillating poet, playwright, and literary critic were perhaps traditional, but were expressed in extremely modern style and ways. Eliot was the first amongst those who rejected conventional verse forms and language. His experiments with free expression contributed to his reputation as one of the most influential writers of his time. American-English poet, playwright, literary critic, and editor was also a leader of the
modernist movement in poetry in such as *The Waste Land* 1922 and *Four Quartets* 1943. Eliot exercised a strong influence on Anglo-American culture from the 1920s until late in the century. He experimented well enough with the diction, style, and versification to revitalize English poetry, and in a series of critical essays, he was successful in shattering the old orthodoxies and laying down the new ones.

Our investigation is based upon all the spheres of his works, which includes his poetry, drama and the prose. However, the study is dealing with some of his specific works in the above-mentioned spheres of his literature. It is in this context that the relevance of T.S. Eliot’s writings under the Biblical impact becomes more lucid. Eliot who had an acute modern sensibility was more modern and more civilized than most of his contemporaries but his true discernment of modernism helped him to warn the society of evils of unrestricted modernism and extraneous and the subservient faith in the new ways of life, which were thriving without regard for the vital and the living past. For this reason, he tried to show the way towards God advocating through the holy Bible. Besides, it can never be neglected that he had great proclivity towards eastern philosophy too. He had a great knowledge of the Vedas and the Upanishads and has given eminent allusions from it in his works such as the *Waste Land*. The themes of temptation, redemption, sainthood, martyrdom, sin and expiation, salvation etc. are very well explained in Hindu philosophy too. Therefore, it would be apt to study and interpret his literature in the light of both the eastern and the western philosophies. This is what we have tried to unravel in our study. However, of course as Eliot delightfully noted, “no journey or exploration is final, it only opens new vistas for further explorations”. It is just an effort of ours towards greater explorations.