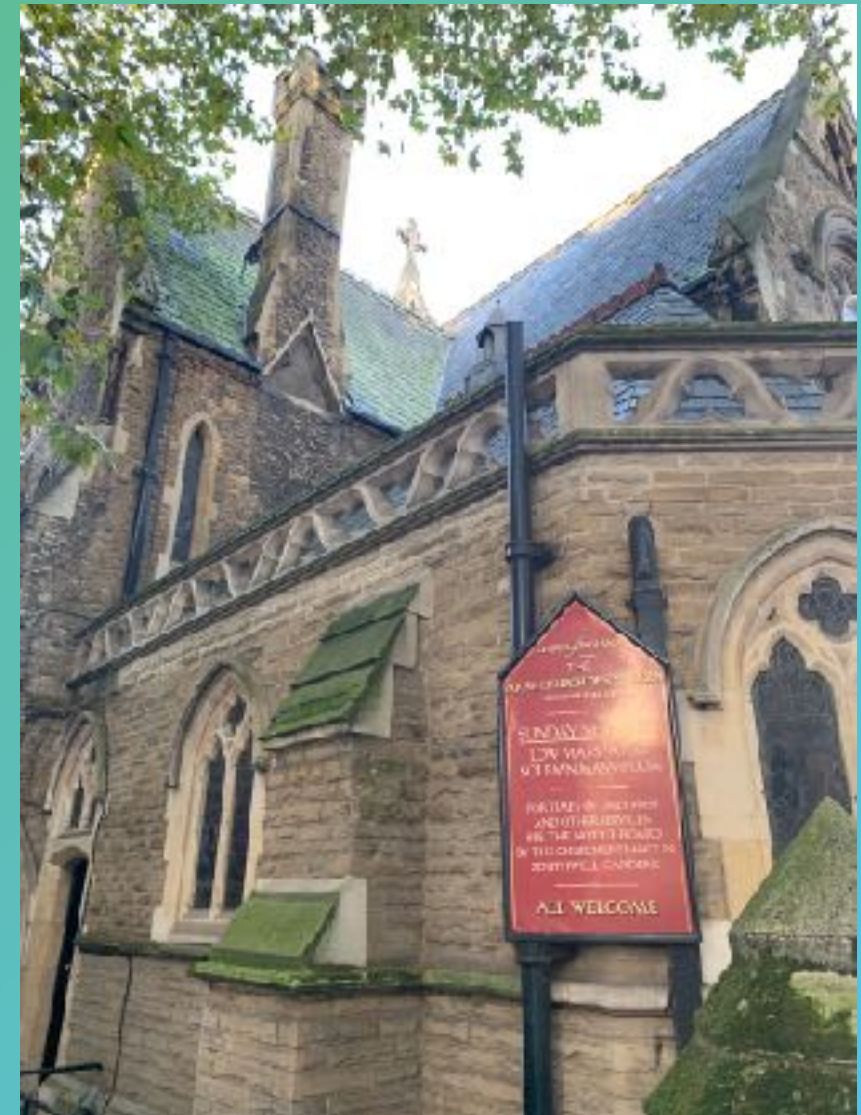


# Burnt Norton



**1927 Eliot's Conversion to Church of England**  
**1934 St Stephens- Eliot becomes Church Warden**

# Key Themes

- Landscape and its redemptive power
- The Spiritual Path
- The “normal” preoccupations of humans
- Time and the Timeless moment
- Childhood
- The relationship between the spiritual search and aesthetic practice
- Language: its difficulties and potentialities



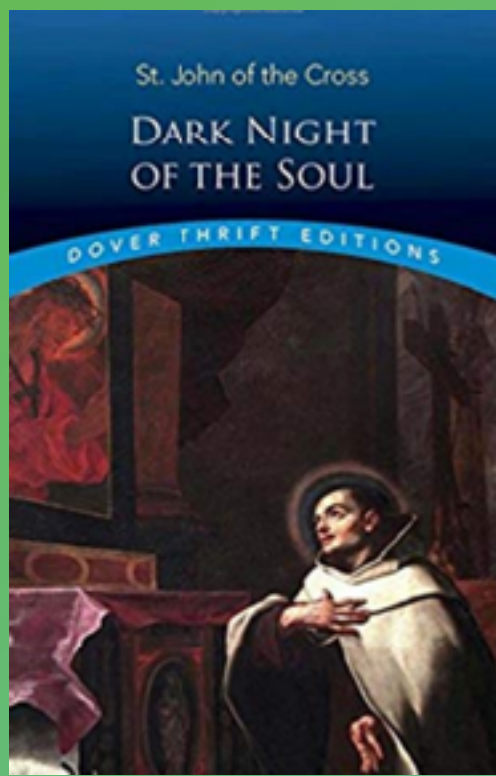


# The Word in the Desert



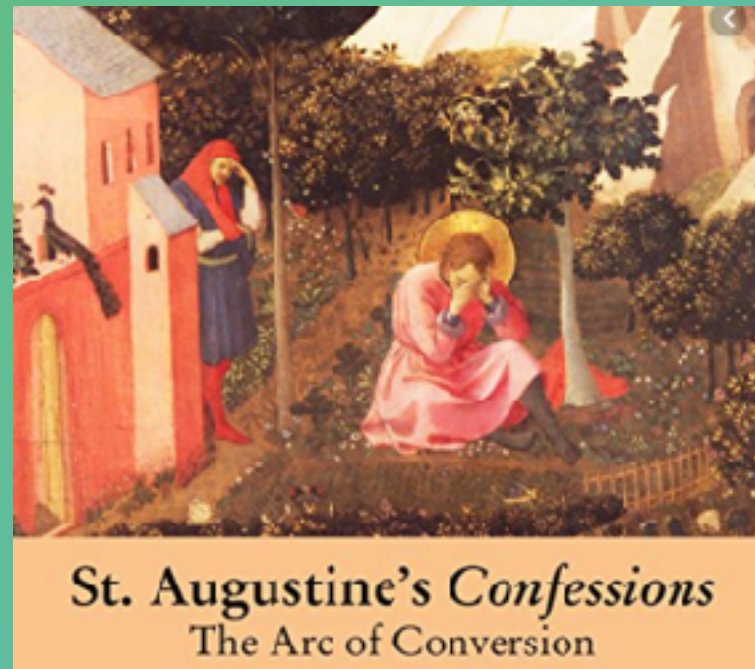


# Literary & Spiritual Influences



**End of Section V**

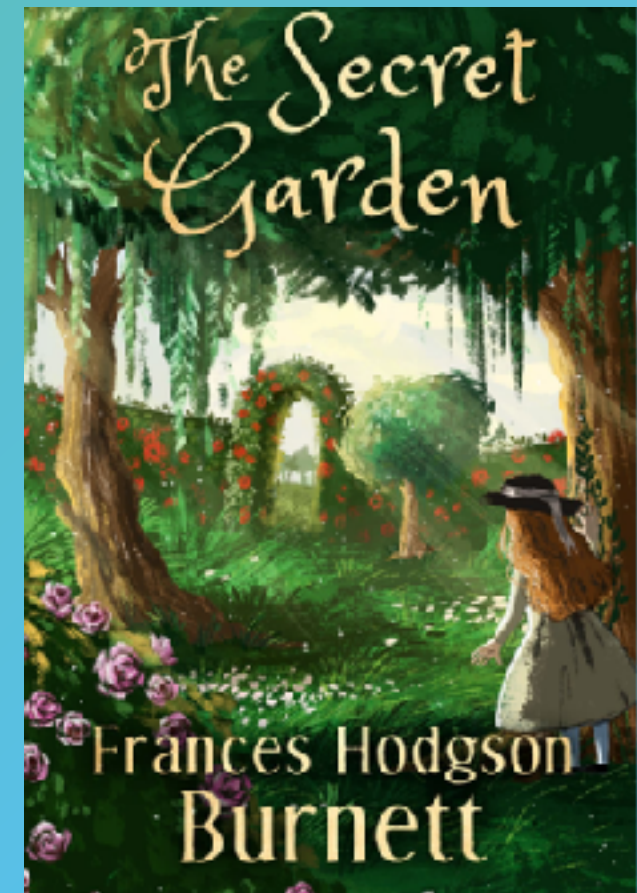
- St Augustine
- St John of the Cross
- Dante
- Kiplings "They" (905)
- Frances Hodgson Burnett *The Secret Garden* (905)



**Start of Section I**



**End Section III**



## Contemplative Pattern in *Four Quartets*

### PREPARATORY RECOLLECTIONS

- I First Movement      Landscape Meditation  
Composition of Place
  - II Second Movement      Temporal Illumination  
Interior Geography of Soul
- 

### INTERIOR QUIETUDE

- III Third Movement      Spiritual Direction  
*Via Negativa / Positiva*
  - IV Fourth Movement      Purification  
*Via Purgativa*
- 

### UNITIVE CONTEMPLATION

- V Fifth Movement      Reconciliation  
*Middle Way Immediacy*



Sequential Pattern					
	I	II	III	IV	V
BN: (Air)	Lotos Rose	Still Point	Descend Lower	Kingfisher's Wing	The Co- existence
EC: (Earth)	Open Field	Wisdom of Humility	Be Still	Wounded Surgeon	Union and Communion
DS: (Water)	River and Sea	Sudden Illumination	Fare Forward	Queen of Heaven	Impossible Union
LG: (Fire)	Tongued with Fire	Compound Ghost	Purify the Motive	Pyre or Pyre	Dancing Together

**4 ways:**

the way of darkness,

the way of stillness,

the way of yogic  
action,

the way of  
purification

**Key theme through all the *Four Quartets*: the redemptive significance of timeless moments, rather than something known, is a new way of knowing, a “new innocence”.**  
**Kramer**

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**Key theme through all the *Four Quartets*: the redemptive significance of timeless moments, rather than something known, is a new way of knowing, a “new innocence”.**  
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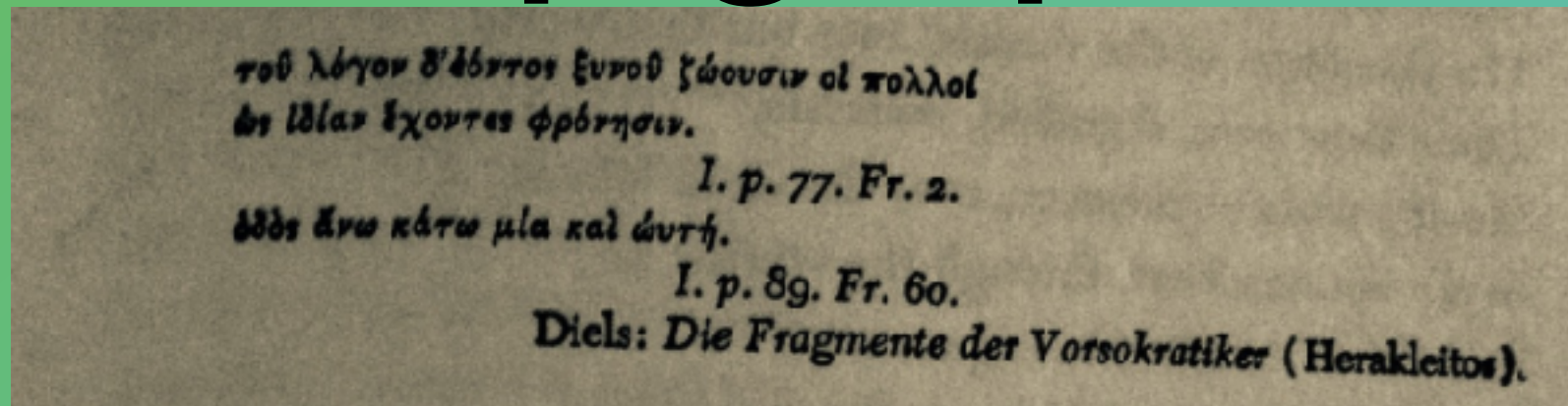
## Theme Words

FOUR QUARTETS	Preparatory Recollections	Interior Quietude	Unitive Contemplation
BURNT NORTON	I. Lotos Rose	III. Descend Lower	V. The Co-existence
	II. Still Point	IV. Kingfisher's Wing	
EAST COKER	I. Open Field	III. Be Still	V. Union and Communion
	II. Wisdom of Humility	IV. Wounded Surgeon	
THE DRY SALVAGES	I. River and Sea	III. Fare Forward	V. Impossible Union
	II. Sudden Illumination	IV. Queen of Heaven	
LITTLE GIDDING	I. Tongued with Fire	III. Purify the Motive	V. Dancing Together
	II. Compound Ghost	IV. Pyre or Pyre	



Theme Words			
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# Epigraphs



- “Although the Word (Logos) is common to all, most men live as though they had each a private wisdom of his own I.p.77.Fr.2.
- “The way up and the way down are one the same”
- Eliot (in letters): “The purpose is to give a clue to the tone and mood of the poem, rather than to the literal meaning. The word LOGOS was important in this way, suggesting the current of Greek thought uniting with the Gospels, coming down to the hermits of the Thebaid, to St. John of the Cross, and to an item of individual experience in the world today.
- “The value of such an epigraph is partly due to the ambiguity and the variety of possible interpretations.”



# Burnt Norton:

Location and Relevance - Eliot's first A visit 1934

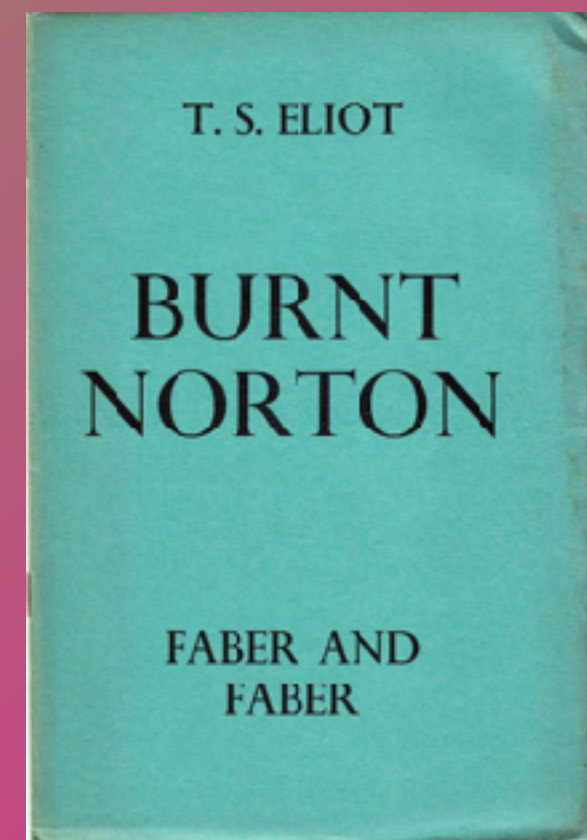


The Rose Garden at Burnt Norton, a charming 17th-century manor house set between the villages of Chipping Campden and Broadway on the Cotswold escarpment



# Burnt Norton:

## Location and Relevance







# T.S. Eliot 1888-1965

Four Quartets		
<i>Burnt Norton</i> (1935)	Air	Our First World
<i>East Coker</i> (1940)	Earth	The Old World
<i>The Dry Salvages</i> (1941)	Water	The New World
<i>Little Gidding</i> (1942)	Fire	Between Two Worlds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga8tQrG4ZSw>





# T.S. Eliot

## 1888-1965

### Four Quartets

*Burnt Norton* (1935)

Air

Our First World



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga8tQrG4ZSw>