

**“Cinderella seems so easy”:
Archetypal Characterisation in Bob Dylan and T.S. Eliot’s
Wastelands**

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This article presents an intertextual study of T.S. Eliot’s *The Waste Land* (1922) and Bob Dylan’s ‘Desolation Row’ (1965) – the original version in the album *Highway 61 Revisited*. Only a few scholars dedicated to the works of Bob Dylan have ‘Desolation Row’ being a vague rather than an explicit allusion to *The Waste Land*. This study will demonstrate how the themes and topics in both texts are not only similar, but how the piece by Dylan contains direct references to Eliot’s poem as well as to other literary and cultural phenomena which Eliot references in his *Wasteland* – “alluding to allusions”, therefore. All this will be illustrated through the nearly identical processes of archetypal characterisation led by the two authors and the rhetorical use of multiplicity of voice. [Article copies available for a fee from *The Transformative Studies Institute*. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2024 by *The Transformative Studies Institute*. All rights reserved.]

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In his *Chronicles Vol I* Bob Dylan references Eliot a few times, evidently to acknowledge that some of his lyrics are influenced by Eliot’s writings (2004, 80). Both the *Waste Land* (1922) and ‘Desolation Row’ (1965) deal with a world that is shattered, whose people are undergoing harsh and extreme alienation, and where distinct notions of the self and the other are blurred. Concerning the most significant themes Eliot’s poem, this study will discuss how these entertain a new narrative crafted by Bob Dylan. In particular, it will deal first with the archetypal representations of the female and male characters in both poems, and second, with the

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