

'I COULD BE A FIRST-CLASS MEDIUM'

In 1925 Vivien confided in a letter to Ezra Pound, 'am very hypnotic, always was... I could be a first class medium,' and on the publication of 'The Wasteland' she wrote, 'You cannot imagine with what emotions I saw 'The Wasteland' go out into the world ...for it has become so much a part of me and me of it in this last year that it was a terrible thing, somehow, when the time came at last for it to be published ...I have been utterly distracted these last two days.'

Vivien, and elements of her personality are laced throughout the poem where she performs the roles of Muse, Editor, and Ventriloquist, while much of its content could be said to have been written on her body. Mental illness especially hysteria can be a symptom of the body's inability to articulate its' pain through normal lines of communication either through fear or social repression. Hysteria is normally viewed as a negative, self - indulgent trait; but Gertrude Stein and some late Twentieth Century Feminist thinkers inverted this concept, rather viewing the Hysteric as one aspect of the Medieval Mystic and Witch with an ability to disrupt the natural order of things, to communicate with the dead and to foretell the future. Hence the last ghost woman uncovered in the poem is a powerful woman with pronounced clairvoyant abilities. Let me introduce you to....