

**AP English Notes  
November 1, 2004**

**No broadcast on Tuesday, November 2**

**Major Test on Wednesday, November 3**

Begin The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark on Thursday, November 4

“The last temptation is the greatest treason / To do the right deed for the wrong reason” (Eliot 44).

“The End Justifies the Means”

“Is it necessary that Becket make his will perfect with the will of the universe?”

**Naming this Philosophy**

**Pragmatism**

“end justifies the means”

“end can justify the means”

**Augustine’s Philosophy**

“Whatever way brought to this happy region”

Is everyone who possesses what he wants happy?

No one, then, who possesses and loves can be happy.

Full satisfaction of the soul, this is the happy life.

Point at which one discovers virtue

**Daniel**

carried into captivity to Babylon about 605 B.C.

educated for the king’s service

**Nebuchadnezzar**

read the writing on the wall at the feast for Belshazzar

delivered from the lions’ den

**Murder in the Cathedral**

by T. S. Eliot

concerns the murder of Thomas á Becket

Four Tempters

Henry II’s Four Knights

Still Point Philosophy

Surrender of the Individual to a Divine Purpose

**Still Point**

Nature -- Rose Garden

Dark Night -- Pain and Suffering -- The Way Down is the Way Up

Grace -- Divine Choice

**altruism**

self sacrifice

still point

a sudden illumination that flashes across

an ordinary life

**An epiphany** – seeing beyond the obvious

For the Saint the perception is neither unbearable nor an illusion.

**AP English Notes  
November 1, 2004**

**Murder in the Cathedral**

by  
**T. S. Eliot**

Central Theme of the Play is Martyrdom  
A martyr is the witness to an awesome reality - -

A purpose beyond human understanding.

Thomas á Becket is the Archbishop of Canterbury  
Flees England due to a disagreement with Henry II  
Returns to Canterbury Cathedral  
Arrives December 2, 1170  
Martyred December 29. 1170

**Becket's Life**

Born in 1118 --Died in 1170  
Norman Parents  
(Merchant Class)  
Archbishop Theobald  
Stopped Stephen from crowning Eustace as Prince Regent  
Henry II (Henry Anjou)

**Becket**

Henry II's Chancellor  
Thomas was 15 years older than Henry II  
But they were friends until the  
dispute over control of the church

**Thomas Stearns Eliot**

Born in St. Louis  
Youngest of Seven Children  
Grandfather was Head of Unitarian Church in St. Louis (Harvard Divinity School)  
Milton Academy in Mass.  
Harvard  
1915--gave up philosophy, settled in England, and married Vivien Haigh -Wood  
Ballerina  
Hysteria  
The Waste Land reflects their relationship  
Vivien has a nervous breakdown  
1930 she is placed in an institution  
1932 they divorced  
Movie: Viv and Tom  
"My nerves are bad tonight"  
He states that he never belonged  
St. Louis--New England--France --England

**Notes on Lines**

Seven years since the Archbishop left us.

**AP English Notes**  
**November 1, 2004**

**Chorus of Women**

King rules and barons rule . . . we are content if we are left alone.  
Some malady is coming upon us. We wait, we wait.  
All the saints and martyrs wait, for those who shall be martyrs and saints.

**Thomas á Becket, Archbishop**

They know and do not know, what it is to act or suffer,  
They know and do not know, that action is suffering.

**First Tempter**

Old Tom . . . Becket of London  
Return to the Past  
Lustful Ways  
Fluting in the Meadow  
Laughter and Apple Blossoms  
Whispers in Chambers

You were not . . . so hard on sinners  
When they were your friends.  
I'll remember you at kissing-time below the stairs.

**Second Tempter**

Return as the Chancellor of England  
Rule over men --reckon no madness

**Becket's Answer to Second Tempter**

"Shall I, who keep the keys / Of heaven and hell, supreme alone in England . . .  
Descend to desire a punier power?" (Eliot 30)

**Second Tempter's Answer**

"Then I leave you to your fate" (Eliot 30)

**Third Tempter**

**Becket's Answer to Third Tempter**

"No one shall say I betrayed a king" (Eliot 34).

**Fourth Tempter**

"You know me, but have never seen my face" (Eliot 35).

"You hold the keys of heaven and hell" (Eliot 36).

"Power to bind and loose: bind, Thomas, bind

King and Bishop under your heel. . . .

You hold the skein: wind, Thomas, wind

The thread of eternal life" (Eliot 37).

**Fourth Tempter**

"Think of the glory after death. . . . Saint and martyr rule from the tomb" (Eliot 37-38).

**The Four Tempters**

Man's life is a cheat and a disappointment

prizes, degrees, decorations

Passing from deception to deception

Thomas á Becket

Now is my way clear, now is the meaning plain:

Temptation shall not come in this kind again

The last temptation is the greatest treason

To do the right deed for the wrong reason

**AP English Notes**  
**November 1, 2004**

**Becket**

December 2, 1170 arrives  
December 29, 1170 death

(Becket has been out of the country for six years--Eliot uses seven.)  
Christmas Morning 1170  
Deep meaning and mystery of the Christmas mass  
Re-enact the Passion and Death  
We rejoice and mourn in one event.

**Thomas Foreshadows**

States to Henry II – “I’ll never see you again”  
States to the audience during the Mass -- “I do not think I shall ever preach to you again”  
The Truth in the Service  
Peace  
Not worldly peace  
Not as the world gives, give I unto thee  
Mourn/Rejoice  
    (Combination of Opposites)  
    (Christmas/Easter)  
    (Birth/Death)  
A Martyrdom is always the design of God  
    ä Martyr’s Warn and Lead

**Thomas continues**

Thirty years ago, I searched all the ways that lead to pleasure  
To become servant of God was never my wish

**Thomas’ Still Point**

“I have had a tremour of bliss, a wink from heaven, a whisper” (Eliot 70).

**Ur Myth**

The Earth must be renewed . . .  
The world must be cleaned in the winter.

**Chorus**

There is no rest in the house  
What is the sickly smell, the vapour? The dark green light from a cloud on a withered tree . . .  
The sticky dew on the back of my hand?  
I have smelt the death-bringers  
The savour of putrid flesh in the spoon  
I have smelt / The death in the rose  
I have lain on the floor of the sea

**Knights Appear**

Business before dinner. We will roast your pork.  
Tradesman’s son -- made by Henry II  
You are from Cheapside, a backstairs brat . . . Creeping out of London dirt.

**Thomas**

“All my life they have been coming, these feet/All my life I have waited” (Eliot 69).  
“I am not in danger, only near to death” (Eliot 70).  
These things had to come and you must accept them. This is your share of the eternal burden .

## AP English Notes November 1, 2004

### Knights -- Come Down Daniel

"Come down Daniel to the lions' den, / Come down for the mark of the beast" (Eliot 74).

"This is the sign of the church always,

The sign of blood" (Eliot 75).

good and evil in the end become confounded

I give my life

To the Law of God above the law of Man

Unbar the door

### Thomas á Becket becomes an Archbishop Two Day Wonder

Archdeacon of Canterbury

Henry II - Chancellor

Death of Archbishop Theobald

Priest--one day

Bishop--next day

Archbishop--that afternoon

Disputes with Henry II

### Dispute with Henry II over trial of clerics

Dispute over church land held by individuals

Becket fled when questioned by Henry II

Becket had excommunicated the Bishops of London and Salisbury for their support of the king.

### The Knights

The murderers pursued him and asked, "Absolve and restore to communion those you have excommunicated and return to office those who have been suspended."

To these words [Thomas] replied, "No penance has been made, so I will not absolve them."

"Then you," they said, "will now die and will suffer what you have earned."

It was fitting that the soldier of the Lord and the martyr of the Savior adhered to His words when he was sought by the impious, "If it is me you seek, let them leave."

"Don't touch me, Rainaldus, you who owes me faith and obedience, you who foolishly follow your accomplices." On account of the rebuff the knight was suddenly set on fire with a terrible rage and, wielding a sword against the sacred crown said, "I don't owe faith or obedience to you that is in opposition to the fealty I owe my lord king."

And when one of them reaching out brandished his sword at the head of the archbishop, he nearly cut off the arm of a certain cleric, who was called Edward Grim, and likewise wounded the anointed of the Lord in the head. Truly that cleric stretched out his arm over the head of the father, so that he might receive the blows or rather divert the blow of the one striking. He stood thus . . . patient as a lamb, innocent without a murmur, without complaint, and offered himself as a complete offering . . . And lest any of the deadly vassals be able to argue later that he was blameless, the second and third cruelly smashed their swords against the top of the head of the steadfast athlete, crushed it, and threw down to the ground the victim . . . Truly the fourth . . . cut off the tansured crown of the dying man . . . scattered the top of the head and, inserting the sharp point into the head, poured forth the brain . . .

Those wicked ones, suddenly aware of their deed and despairing of pardon, did not dare to return to the court of the king whence

## AP English Notes November 1, 2004

they had come; but they withdrew to the western parts of England . . . (to) an estate of Hugh de Moreville's, and there remained for awhile until they were considered vile by compatriots of that province. Truly everyone avoided their company, nor did anyone wish to eat or drink with them. They ate and drank alone, and they were banished to the scraps of food with their dogs. And when they had tasted from that dish, even the dogs no longer wished to eat anything from there. Behold the manifest and worthy vengeance of God, that those who defied the anointed of the Lord were despised even by their dogs.

Meanwhile, the king . . . when he had heard that the archbishop of Canterbury was slain so cruelly in the church of Canterbury, he grieved violently, even more than it is possible to say.

His life was miserable beyond words. Truly he did not wish to eat anything for three days, nor to speak with anyone, but conducted his lonely life behind closed doors for five weeks, until Rotrod archbishop of Rouen and the bishops of the Normans came to him to console him.

While the body still lay on the pavement, some of them [the townsfolk of Canterbury] smeared their eyes with blood. Others brought bottles and carried off secretly as much of it as they could. Others cut off shreds of clothing and dipped them in the blood. At a later time no one was thought happy who had not carried off something from the precious treasure of the martyr's body. And indeed with everything in such a state of confusion and tumult, each man could do as he pleased. Some of the blood left over was carefully and cleanly collected and poured into a clean vessel and treasured up in the church. The archbishop's pallium and outer vesture, stained with blood, were with indiscreet piety given to the poor to pray for his soul, and happy would it have been for them, if they had not with inconsiderate haste sold them for a paltry sum of money. (Benedict of Petersborough)

While the body still lay on the pavement, some of them [the townsfolk of Canterbury] smeared their eyes with blood. Others brought bottles and carried off secretly as much of it as they could. Others cut off shreds of clothing and dipped them in the blood. At a later time no one was thought happy who had not carried off something from the precious treasure of the martyr's body.

And indeed with everything in such a state of confusion and tumult, each man could do as he pleased. Some of the blood left over was carefully and cleanly collected and poured into a clean vessel and treasured up in the church.

The archbishop's pallium and outer vesture, stained with blood, were with indiscreet piety given to the poor to pray for his soul, and happy would it have been for them, if they had not with inconsiderate haste sold them for a paltry sum of money.

They therefore stripped him of his outer garments to put on him his pontifical vestments; in so doing they discovered that the body was covered in a hair-shirt, no less painful from its stiffness than from other causes and - a circumstance of which we have neither read nor heard of an example in the case of any other saint - they found the body covered in sackcloth, even from the thighs down to the knees, beneath the cowl and robe of the Cistercian habit. At this sight the monks gazed at one another, astounded at this proof of a hidden piety greater than might have been credited to the archbishop, and at this second cause of sorrow, they multiplied their tears. How could such a man have been suspected of covetousness or treachery? Could he ever have set his thoughts upon an earthly kingdom, who had thus preferred sackcloth above all worldly pleasures? Was he not betrayed by his king rather than a traitor who would neither yield to his betrayers, those sons of perdition, nor, as he could have done, resist them? . . .

Thomas remained in exile in France for six years, with the support of the King of France, first at Pontigny and then at Sens. In 1169, while still in France, he excommunicated the Bishops of London and Salisbury who had stood against him and supported the King.

In 1170, while Henry was in France himself, Thomas returned to England.

He was cheered by the local people from the time he landed to his arrival back in Canterbury.

It was probable that Henry believed that with his friend in the highest office in the Church in England there would be an easy alliance between Church and State. However, when Henry amended laws to place the State in a position to

## **AP English Notes November 1, 2004**

take charge of cases involving the clergy, the trouble started. Thomas originally agreed to the changes but subsequently changed his mind and did penance to show that he had been wrong in his original decision. This act, in those days, was considered a considerable "slap in the face" for Henry. As a result, Henry called Becket to Northampton and asked him to account for sums of money that had passed through his hands while he was chancellor and then later as the Archbishop of Canterbury.

### **Thomas' Appointment**

"Should God permit me to be the archbishop of Canterbury, I would soon lose your Majesty's favor, and the affection with which you honor me would be changed into hatred.

For there are several things you do now in prejudice of the rights of the Church which make me fear you would require of me what I could not agree to; and envious persons would not fail to make it the occasion of endless strife between us."

**The King paid no heed.**

### **Knights**

Speak in Prose

Use Faulty Logic

Speak to Audience

(Universal Man)

### **First Knight**

First Knight

Reginald FitzUrse

Introduces the Other Knights

Fitz Urse (First Knight)

Reginald FitzUrse, snatching at a last chance of pardon, still sought to win the King's favor by capturing the Archbishop alive, even at this eleventh hour. He threw down the hatchet which hampered his shield arm, and as he came within reach launched a swinging blow with the flat of his sword. (Duggan)

The Archbishop's skull cap fluttered to the ground, but the blow had missed its mark. Thomas still stood erect and defiant. (Duggan)

### **Reginald Fitz Urse (First Knight)**

Reginald Fitz Urse –

But, as expected, Becket not only taunted them but offered immense physical resistance. He threw Traci to the floor and in turn was set upon by Fitz Urse, at whom he shouted: 'Let go of me, you pimp!' (Farley).

Becket calls him a "panderer" or a "pimp."

At this point, Fitz Urse, who had been called 'a pimp' by Thomas in this shoving match drew his sword and threatened The Archbishop.

### **Reginald Fitz Urse (Fist Knight)**

Reginald leaned on his sword, breathing hard. This was not what he had planned, but perhaps it might please the King. Anyway, they were all in it together. Then he recalled that Richard le Breton had not struck a blow; an eyewitness who bore no guilt for the murder might afford inconvenient evidence. "Strike," he murmured, laying a hand on Richard's shoulder; and Tracy added, "Strike, or lie with the Archbishop." (Duggan)

Richard le Breton heaved up his sword. It was hard to hate that crumpled figure on the stone pavement, but he summoned up again the grievance which had brought him from Normandy. "Take this," he shouted "for love of the King's brother, who died of grief because you forbade his marriage." (Duggan)

### **Fitz Urse (First Knight)**

It is said that the Fitz Urse family was so ashamed for his part in this deed that they changed the family name to Bearham, based on the 'Urse or Ursa' (Bear) part of the name. (Blanche)

### **William de Traci (Third Knight)**

Baron William De Traci (Tracey) (Tracy)

Eldest Member

## AP English Notes November 1, 2004

Loyal to His King  
No Personal Gain  
Goes Against the Grain to Kill an Archbishop  
Awful Row  
Live Abroad  
First to Strike (stabs again and again)

### De Traci (Third Knight)

He (Becket) threw Tracey to the floor and in turn was set up on by FitzUrse, at whom he shouted: 'Let go of me, you pimp!' (Farley).

De Tracey also drew his sword and called out, "strike! strike!" to the others and delivered the first blow. (Blanche)

Then Tracey swung his sword again and again, and at the third stroke Thomas pitched forward. (Duggan)

### Traci remembers Brito's innocence

Then he (Traci) recalled that Richard le Breton had not struck a blow; an eyewitness who bore no guilt for the murder might afford inconvenient evidence. "Strike," he murmured, laying a hand on Richard's shoulder; and Tracy added, "Strike or lie with the Archbishop." (Duggan)

Richard le Breton heaved up his sword. It was hard to hate that crumpled figure on the stone pavement, but he summoned up again the grievance which had brought him from Normandy. "Take this," he shouted "for love of the King's brother, who died of grief because you forbade his marriage." (Duggan)

Brito delivered an almighty blow which actually severed the top of the cranium, spilling the brains of the priest on the floor.

The tip of the sword came off with the strength of the impact. (Blanche)

### Fourth Knight

Richard Brito

Family Loyal to the Church

Most Convincing

Asks, "Who killed the Bishop?"

Verdict: "Suicide while of unsound mind."

Becket was determined to be a martyr.

He could have allowed our anger to cool . . . he insisted that the door be unbarred.

Richard Brito (Fourth Knight)

Had not struck a blow

Forced to strike or die by de Traci

Struck a blow that severed the top of the skull and embedded the sword tip the floor

### Second Knight (called the fourth in Medieval History guards the door (the look out)

Sir Hugh De Morville

Requested to Reason with the Crowd

Becket was Growing Too Powerful

Save the State the Expense of a Trial

Sometimes Violence is the Only Answer

Guarded the door

### Hugh DeMorville

ä Farley retells the story that

de Moreville, whose name meant City of Death, had reputedly boiled alive a man alleged to have made improper advances to de Moreville's wife ("Becket," Medieval History) .

(to) an estate of Hugh de Moreville's, and there remained for awhile until they were considered vile by compatriots of that province. Truly everyone avoided their company, nor did anyone wish to eat or drink with them. They ate and drank alone, and they were banished to the scraps of food with their dogs. And when they had tasted from that dish, even the dogs no longer wished to eat anything from there. ("Becket," Medieval History) .

### Grim

**AP English Notes**  
**November 1, 2004**

ä With a sob of sheer misery Henry of Auxerre pushed the cross from him and took to his heels. As it swayed, the silver pole flashed in the candlelight, and Grim of Cambridge caught it before it could touch the ground. (Duggan)

ä And one Sir Edward Grim, that was his crossier put forth his arm with the cross to bear off the stroke, and the stroke smote the cross asunder and his arm almost off, wherefore he fled for fear ("Becket", Golden Legend).

ä The first blow, struck by FitzUrse, had failed because Grim interposed the metropolitan cross to parry it; but the English clerk was not a trained swordsman, and he held the cross aslant; the sword glanced down the staff to bury itself in his arm. Grim fell to the ground, still grasping the cross with a hand from which blood spouted. (Duggan)

*Review*

ä After Becket's death, Henry II

ä (a) left for France

ä (b) moved to Scotland

ä (c) placed flowers on the tomb

ä (d) was scourged

ä (e) was forced to marry Eleanor

*Review*

ä A liturgical play is one dealing with the

ä a. state

ä b. church

ä c. food

ä d. old maid school teachers