

Life is occupied by waiting. In *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Becket presents the suffering of the human condition. Godot is about two beings who talk about nothing, experience the drudgery of life, complain that they do not do anything, meet a few people, think about hanging themselves, and then do it all over again. The existentialist style by Godot is comparable to T.S. Eliot's works. Eliot's *Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, and *Hollow Men* are about the tormenting cycle of life and death. The connection among these three works is that people want to and should do so much, but they do not.

*Waiting for Godot* takes place in a rural area, with just a tree in the background. The two friends Vladimir and Estragon talk aimlessly and complain about life. They consider hanging themselves, but realize before they do that they should consult with Godot. Who or what Godot symbolizes remains a mystery, but their whole existence seems to be to wait for Godot. They meet a couple of fellows: Pozzo, an upper-class man, mistaken by Vladimir and Estragon as Godot, and Pozzo's slave, Lucky. After they leave, a messenger from Godot arrives and states simply that Godot will arrive tomorrow, same place, same time. They consider leaving, but do not. The second act is almost an exact repeat of the first, but Lucky and Pozzo have fallen upon hard times. Pozzo has become blind and pathetic, and Lucky has become dumb. This change in events is a direct point of life being terrific one moment, and worthless the next. Godot never shows up. The play ends with the two considering to go somewhere, but they do not.

The similarity of this play to Eliot's poem is remarkable. Eliot's *Love Song* is in the first person point of view, and this person refers to "you," who is probably a woman. It is about a man who wants to do so much - be with pretty woman, make something of his life. His flaws are many, though. He realizes he is getting balding and more wrinkled. His prowess with women is deteriorating and this disturbs him. Life is going away and he is no Prince Hamlet. So he does nothing, and that is the major flaw. He just lets life suck everything from him and take away everything he could have done. Like in *Godot*, there is so much that can be done, but an excuse is always found. Vladimir and Estragon have to wait for Godot. Prufrock is too old, too good for nothing, so it is safer to just do nothing. This aspect of the human condition of just going through the motions is the easy way out, and both Beckett and Eliot want to illustrate that if one does not live life to its fullest, maybe one should not even live at all.

In *Hollow Men*, Eliot maintains that life is hollow, and death is inevitable. The cycle from birth to death is just a natural process that does not matter and does not make a difference in the large scheme of things. *Hollow Men* says life is just a wait for the final destruction in which there is an endless succession of births and deaths. This infinite sequence means nothing, since man will not find what he seeks. He is blind physically and spiritual, and salvation is unattainable. Comparably to *Godot*, the sequence of waiting is the theme. This eternal waiting is what makes the human condition so deplorable and they also attest that existence is nonexistence.

The finality of life and the futility of it all is the tenor in *Godot* and T.S. Eliot's work. Both deal with the frivolity of life, and the moral "being is suffering." The message that appears from them is to do something with life, otherwise it will end up how it started - nothingness.

