




WISDOMFEST 2025



The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

by T.S. Eliot

“There will be time, there will be time to
prepare a face to meet the faces that you
meet.”

Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

“And time yet for a hundred indecisions, and
for a hundred visions and revisions, before
the taking of a toast and tea.”

Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

“To wonder, ‘Do I dare?’ and, ‘Do I dare?’
Time to turn back and descend the stair,

“With a bald spot in the middle of my hair –
(They will say: ‘How his hair is growing thin!’)”

Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

“Do I dare disturb the universe?

In a minute there is time

For decisions and revisions which a minute
will reverse.” - Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

“But though I have wept and fasted, wept
and prayed,
Though I have seen my head (grown slightly
bald) brought in upon a platter,

“I am no prophet – and here’s no great
matter;

I’ve seen the moment of my greatness flicker,

“And I have seen the eternal Footman hold
my coat, and snicker,
And in short, I was afraid.”

Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

“It is impossible to say just what I mean!”

Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

“We have lingered in the chambers of the sea
By sea-girls wreathed with seaweed
red and brown

“Till human voices wake us, and we drown.”

Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

1. The breakdown of marriage and family

2. The anti-socialization of high school students

“The data about the social lives of high school students is incredibly bleak and honestly makes me very worried for the next generation.” - Ryan Burge

3. The investment in social skills

CULTURE > FEATURES

Why Are Gen-Z and Millennial Workers Obsessed With “Soft Skills” in the Workplace?

In the face of rapid advancements in generative AI, younger workers feel that skills like empathy, communication, and leadership are the most important tools for success

“Investing in soft skills [e.g. empathy, communication, leadership] will not only help companies be more successful, it will help in terms of employee retention.”- Eliana Goldstein

BELIEVE

GOD'S WORD

CONNECT

WITH GOD'S FAMILY

SHARE

GOD'S STORY

the fall of the Assyrian Empire (612 B.C.)

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the rise of the Babylonian Empire

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the rise of the Babylonian Empire

the defeat of Carchemish (605 B.C.)

the fall of Jerusalem (586 B.C.)

“... ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.’

“But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;
for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

“Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
declares the LORD.”

Jeremiah 1:6-8

“I am with you.”

“Woe is me, my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me.” - Jeremiah 15:10

Jeremiah is struggling with . . .

- self pity - “woe is me”

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- despair -

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“I have not lent, nor have I borrowed”

“Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

“for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.”

Jeremiah 15:16

1. “**Cursed** is the man who **trusts in man**” (5-6)

“Thus says the LORD:

‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from the LORD.’ (5)

- the unfavorable **condition** (5)

- the unfavorable condition (5)
- the unfavorable **comparison** (6)

“He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good come.
He shall dwell in the parched places of the
wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.” (6)

Trusting in man leads to a . . .

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- **stunted** existence

Trusting in man leads to a . . .

- stunted existence
- **parched** life

Trusting in man leads to a . . .

- stunted existence
- parched life
- **uninhabited** place

“She finds herself lightheaded, on edge, and unable to settle down to anything for the rest of the day.

“For a few moments she even feels tearful
and then suddenly angry.

“She tries to focus on her work, but she can’t help returning to a moment in the meeting when she was asked a question.

“She replays the awkward moment in her mind over and over again. Was she too flustered?”

“Could everyone tell she was nervous?
Why did she say what she did instead of
something clearer, more intelligent,
smoother?

“Why did she have to be such an idiot and mispronounce the word ‘epitome’?”

“When the supervisor remarked that it was ‘time to cut to the chase,’ was he actually referring to her?

“Did they all think she talked too much? Did she ramble?”

“Was her answer really unsophisticated, or worse – did it hurt someone’s feelings? Cross a line? Why was everyone quiet for a few seconds after she spoke?” - Jaime/Trenton

“The fear of man lays a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.”

Proverbs 29:25

safe = to be securely on high, inaccessible
beyond the reach of human harm

1. “Cursed is the man who trusts in man” (5-6)
2. “**Blessed** is the man who **trusts the LORD**”
(7-8)

- the favorable **condition** (7)

- the favorable **condition** (7)

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.”

- the favorable condition (7)
- the favorable **comparison** (8)

“He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,

“for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.” (8)

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- **rooted** - not shallow or superficial

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- **rooted** - not shallow or superficial
“sends out its roots by the stream” (8a)

- **stable** - not vascillating with seasonal changes

- **stable** - not vascillating with seasonal changes
“and does not fear when the heat comes,
for its leaves remain green” (8b)

- **fruitful** - not sterilized by adversity or rejection

“And is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit” (8c)

“Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like
waters that fail?” (15:18b)

* How does transferring our trust from people to God enable us to grow in social skills?

1. We shift from **technique** to **trust and love**.

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

“that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ
has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

Romans 15:5-7

2. We begin to see how **anxiety** diminishes **social wisdom**.

- Anxiety tends to turn us **inward**.

“You will worry less about what people think of you when you realize how seldom they do.”

David Foster Wallace

- Social anxiety can disciple us into developing **“safety” strategies.**

“Safety”-seeking behaviors

- medicating anxiety by abusing alcohol or drugs

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- excessive screen time

- avoiding eye contact

- avoiding eye contact
- withdrawing from relationships or social settings

- overworking

- overworking
- preprogramming and rehearsing conversations for fear of uncertainty or spontaneity

“There will be time to prepare a face to meet
the faces that you meet.”

Prufrock/T.S. Eliot

“Hanssen explained that he actually had to deal with social situations by having preset stories and conversations.

“Like people who, as soon as you meet them,
they start telling you jokes.

“He could be funny and charming in a sort of programmed way.

“But he could not be with someone for two hours in a row, because he would run out of stories.”

David Charney

- Anxiety is **contagious**.

“A project you’ve been working on at work fails, and your boss holds you responsible.

“Feeling frustrated and anxious about the implications for your career, you show up at home visibly tense.

“Your wife notices your mood, but when she asks about it, you avoid sharing any details.

“Sensing the tension, your wife becomes irritable and snaps at your teenage daughter for not having finished her chores.

“Your daughter, in turn, gets upset, retreats to her room, feeling unfairly targeted.

“She then vents her frustration on her younger brother, criticizing him for playing his music too loudly. This leads to an argument between the siblings.” - Joe Carter

When we transfer our trust from people to
God . . .

When we transfer our trust from people to God . . .

3. We experience more courage to grow **relationally**.

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our
God.”

Psalm 20:7

“In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.”

Proverbs 14:26

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’

“Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

“Your words became to me a joy and the
delight of my heart” (15:16)