

INGL 3300-066--“Post-Apocalyptic Literature and Film” ---Ingl3300-066
UPRM, Fall 2015, Dr. Gregory Stephens (**Lecture 7, Oct. 6, 2015**)

Cormac McCarthy interview with Oprah:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3kpzuk1Y8I>

Religious Symbolism, and the “End of Patriarchy” in *The Road*

Morgenstern, Naomi. “Postapocalyptic Responsibility: Patriarchy at the End of the World in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*.” *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, Volume 25, Number 2 (2014): 33-61.

.....The father-son relationship in *The Road* is sanctified (“The boy didnt stir. He sat beside him and stroked his pale and tangled hair. Golden chalice, good to house a god. Please dont tell me how the story ends” [75]).

The novel begins...with the father’s *word*, not just his thought: “He said: if he [referring to his son] is not the word of God, God never spoke” (5); **God’s existence and that of the child are interdependent.**

The familial and the divine also collapse in the novel’s implicit identification of its “son” with the Son and its father with the Father. The father and the narrator are...closely related if not entirely identified

[given] the novel’s fragmentary form,what or who holds it all together? Is it the man’s consciousness, the narrator’s voice, the author’s implied consciousness..... ?

The Road hovers...between a kind of biblical/ theological paradigm (note its repeated references to gods, tabernacles, anointing,[2] and so on,[1] not to mention the story’s intense relationship to Abraham and Isaac,[3] Exodus, the story of Job, and the Gospels)[4] and the discourse of American masculinity in the second half of the twentieth century.

[1] Heathen candles (48)

[2] Read from p. 74.... “like some ancient anointing”

[3] “Can you do it? When the time comes?” (29)

Scene upstairs in house of cannibals, when he holds pistol to the boy’s head.

[4] “He caught it in his hand and watched it expire there like the last host of Christendom” (16)

After the cannibals in the truck: Read pp. 70-71, going to look for boy’s knapsack.

ORIGINS OF THE APOCALYPSE

“The clocks stopped at 1:17. A long shear of light and then a series of low concussions.”

Need to retrain senses—to let go of the past, of memories that could entrap and endanger one. Getting rid of photo of wife.

“Like the dying world the newly blind inhabit, all of it slowly fading from memory” (18)

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE EARTH AS BODY, AND A DISFIGURED SUN:

“By day the banished sun circles the earth like a grieving mother with a lamp” (32)

“The unseen sun cast no shadow” (69)

River goes east. Follow the road south on eastern slope... (42)

RELATIONS WITH OTHER HUMANS

His conversation with man who wanted to eat his son:

Read pp. 64. Man’s “progressive emaciation” described p. 63.

“We’re the walking dead in a horror film” (55)

Her prophesy about being raped and eaten: p. 56

Pros and cons of self-destruction: p. 58; read quote p. 59

The Road (YouTube excerpts)

dubbed in Spanish

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VW_Wd0A8coM

Opening Scene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikeUBSrwZQA>

Part 2 (wife breaks water/ birth/ segues to cannibals in truck)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q07XE-BznOE>

Part 3 (wife doesn't want to survive; "not many good guys left; got to keep carrying the fire" / Coke can / "I wish I was with my mom")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2IqWMrRmYw>

Part 4 (wife walks into cold / throwing ring & pic in river; "go south, you won't survive another winter here" / Cannibal scene at house)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpmO3ePtiyg>

Part 5 (end of cannibal scene / visit to his old house/

"he imagines how things will be at the coast; that there'll be other children there")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwwYZfsVHPE>

Part 6 ("how do you think we're going to die?" / coughing intensifies/ discovery of food cellar)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJzNgMUvpnQ>

Part 7 (flashback to love scenes / leaving cellar / Robert Duvall)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVyogyYxbXQ>

Part 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2XhvtXNb48>

Clip 6 (Robert Duvall scene)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaYvISSTyG4&list=PL4203BE532864022B&index=6>

Thief scene (man who stole equipment as father dying)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mwq0mgvC1eY>

Death scene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXlBmQfnWCY>

Are You Carrying the Fire?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXlBmQfnWCY>