

Mythologically United Subjects in an Exceptional Set II:

This Time It's Personal

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Packet 5

1. In one poem in this form by Rachel Eliza Griffiths, the speaker states that she'll listen to her lover again "when the trains far away in memory begin to turn their engines toward a deep past of knowing." The shadows of a couple are compared to "two wicks" of "one candle" in a poem in this form set in a "city so white it is ready for ink." That poem in this form opens with the image of "Milkflower petals on the street like pieces of a girl's dress." The speaker of one poem in this form states that what we fear is "nothing to think with, nothing to love or link with" after invoking the image of (*) "that vast moth-eaten musical brocade" created by religion. Ocean Vuong incorporated lyrics of "White Christmas" into one of these poems "with Burning City." Troubadours contrasted poems in this form with serenades. One poem in this form opens with the speaker "waking at four to soundless dark" after remarking, "I work all day, and get half-drunk at night." For 10 points, what style of love song meant to invoke the dawn titles a poem by Philip Larkin?

ANSWER: **aubades** [accept "**Aubade** to Langston;" accept "**Aubade** with Burning City"]

< EA | *Erato* >

2. In Iran and Afghanistan, celebrants of this holiday hit each other on the head with oversized scallions while singing a song about their blessings. In 2019, the a cappella group Six13 released a parody of the Lion King's "Circle of Life" to celebrate this holiday. In Ashkenazi communities, this holiday is celebrated with a song that lists the virtues of God in alphabetical order, the Adir Hu. As in the Havdalah of Shabbat, the "Eliyahu HaNavi" is repeated twice after a feast during this holiday to invite (*) Elijah to attend and bring the Messiah. A song associated with this holiday ends its refrain with the phrase "it would have sufficed!" In addition to singing the Dayenu, this holiday traditionally features a child asking "Why is tonight different from all other nights?" as part of the Ma Nishtana, or Four Questions. For 10 points, name this holiday where the Kadesh Urchatz is sung, listing the 15 sections of this holiday's seder.

ANSWER: **Passover** [or **Pesach**]

< BMC, *Polyhymnia* >

3. In the paper "Communication and Display," John Baines argued that this object does not depict a particular moment in history, but instead is a memorial to "tokens of royal achievement." This object is depicted on the cover of a Whitney Davis book analyzing "the scene of representation" titled *Masking the Blow*. One portion of this object depicts ten decapitated and castrated men whose heads have been placed between their feet beneath a boat and a swallow. This object's verso side depicts a bull crashing through a city wall beneath two servants holding back a pair of fighting (*) serpopards. This object's rear depicts a king wearing a belt with four embroidered tassels preparing to strike a kneeling prisoner, who is sometimes identified as a predynastic king known only as Wash. Traditionally, this object was thought to represent the unification of the Upper and Lower Kingdoms. For 10 points, name this 31st century BCE stone tablet used to grind cosmetics, which depicts the founder of the first Egyptian dynasty.

ANSWER: **Narmer Palette** [or **Great Hierakonpolis Palette**; or the **Palette of Narmer**; accept any answer indicating the **palette** of **Narmer**; prompt on answers that mention "tablet" or "plate" in the place of palette]

< BMC, *Clio* >

4. A building designed by this scientist weighs enough that “the spin of the Earth is delayed” according to an inscription on the building. This scientist used a cubic equation to hand-construct sine and tangent tables accurate to eight decimal places for every minute between one and forty-five degrees, and an instrument designed by this scientist had a length of over 50 meters and was capable of measuring declinations with an accuracy of 180 seconds. This scientist added precession effects and other improvements to Ptolemy’s position data to compile information on over 1000 stars in the catalogue (*) *Zij-i Sultani*. This scientist oversaw operations of a building which contained the Fakhri sextant, the largest sextant of the Middle Ages, before he was deposed and assassinated by his son Abdal-Latif in 1449. For 10 points, name this short-lived Timurid ruler and son of Shah Rukh: a patron of astronomy who built a namesake *madrasa* and observatory in Samarkand.

ANSWER: Ulugh Beg [or Mirza Muhammad Taraghay bin Shahrukh]

< EA | *Urania* >

Note to players: You may answer this question verbally or by performing the action being asked for.

5. In a film centered around this action, a man who does it is run over by a car before a homeless person pulls off his leg and runs off. In one movie, a man openly regrets performing this action after the love of his life accidentally kills a baby when she hallucinates a golden cradle in the middle of a snowstorm. A peasant woman holds an orgy in a village infected with the bubonic plague after performing this action in an animated film that ends with her death inspiring the spirit of the French Revolution. Claymation, live action, and large wooden puppets were used for a 1994 film by (*) Jan Svankmajer centered on a man performing this action. Jeanne’s performance of this action is central to the Japanese psychedelic animated film *Belladonna of Sadness*. An angel wins a bet in an F. W. Murnau film about this action, his last German film; the protagonist of that film accidentally kills Valentin, the brother of his love, Gretchen. For 10 points, name this action undertaken by the main character in pretty much every movie titled *Faust*.

ANSWER: selling your soul to the Devil [accept close equivalents such as making a pact with the Devil or sleeping with Satan; prompt on worshipping the Devil; prompt on partial answers that don’t mention the Devil, Lucifer, etc. by asking “to or with whom?”]

< EA | *Melpomene* >

6. A dance by this choreographer features dancers pointing out indiscernible architectural details to an audience watching through a window from a building across the street. This choreographer of *Street Dance* replaced Andrew deGroat’s routines in the “Field Dances” of one work. In a different piece by this choreographer, dancers performed on a grid behind a transparent screen and exactly mirrored a projected recording of the piece. In the original performance of an opera choreographed by this composer, she lays on a bed while repeating a text written by her which begins, “I was in this (*) prematurely air-conditioned supermarket.” This choreographer collaborated with Sol Lewitt and Philip Glass for her piece *Dance*, and in her most famous role, she recites a Christopher Knowles poem beginning “I Feel the Earth Move.” For 10 points, name this minimalist dancer who performed her original choreography in *Einstein on the Beach*.

ANSWER: Lucinda Childs

< IC | *Terpsichore* >

7. In a Spanish language work named for this character, God states, "This lunatic who acts without moderation. I will return to him all the joy in bitterness" before causing this character's death. Another work titled for this character contains the line, "You run into Scylla, desiring to avoid Charybdis," and is attributed to Walter of Chatillon. Many works about this character depict his trips to the top of the world with the aid of griffins and to the bottom of the ocean in a glass submarine. A Middle-English epic lifts a story from a Syriac source to depict this character defeating (*) Gog and Magog. The most famous medieval work about this character was written by Pseudo-Callisthenes and names a genre of romances that depicted this character's life. For 10 points, name this real-world Greek king, whose marriage to Roxane and conquest of the known world were the subject of many medieval legends.

ANSWER: **Alexander** the Great [or **Alexander** III of Macedon] (the epics are *Libro de Alexandre*, *Alexandreis*, *King Alisaunder*, *Roman d'Alexandre en prose*, and *Alexander Romance*)

< BMc | Calliope >

8. In a hymn by this composer, a celesta, piano, and strings play a C pentatonic while the sopranos and altos sing a soft setting of the *Vexilla Regis* which is interrupted by a surprising fortissimo chord played by the entire orchestra. That hymn by this composer opens with a tenor trombone playing the *Pange Lingua*. This composer set the gnostic (*) "Hymn of Jesus" in another work, composed after the Battle of the Somme. This composer used his tune "Cranham" to set a Christina Rossetti poem that states "earth stood hard as iron" while "In the Bleak Midwinter. This composer used his own Sanskrit translations for pieces named "Hymn to the Unknown God" and "Hymn to Varuna" in a series of hymns. " This hymnodist set a poem by Cecil-Spring Rice in a hymn which quotes his tune "Thaxted." For 10 points, identify this British hymnodist of "Hymns from the Rig Veda" and "I Vow to Thee, My Country" which he based on a melody from his *Jupiter, Bringer of Jollity*.

ANSWER: Gustav(us) Theodore von **Holst**

< IC | Polyhymnia >

9. After a character in this play sentimentally sings the aria "Then You'll Remember Me" from Michael William Balfe's opera *The Bohemian Girl*, one character tearfully apologizes for drinking too much alcohol at a picnic. When a drunk character in this play is unable to locate his mouth with a spoonful of soup, he stands up, shouts, "Down with spoons," and drinks the soup by lifting the plate to his face. After excessively quoting "The Ballad of Reading Gaol," a seventeen year old boy in this play is kicked out of a bar called the Pleasant Beach House for trying to defend the prostitute (*) Belle. It's not *The Iceman Cometh*, but one character in this play quotes Ferdinand Freiligrath by saying, "The days grow hot, Oh Babylon! 'Tis cool beneath thy willow trees!" In this play, Muriel McComber is forced to stay away from a boy who reads indecent works by Shaw and Swinburne. That boy in this play, Richard, dislikes the Fourth of July festivities put on by his father Nat Miller. A phrase from the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam* titles, for 10 points, what comedy by Eugene O'Neill?

ANSWER: **Ah, Wilderness!**

< MM | Thalia >

10. In his most famous book, Johann Jakob Bachofen claimed that the primal ur-religion was dominated by this motif. In a paper titled "The Myth of" this motif, Andrew Flemming argued that archaeologists have persistently misidentified ambiguous artifacts as examples of this motif. In books titled for the *Language of* and *Civilization of* this motif, Marija Gimbutas argued for the existence of a civilization centered around it. It's not the potnia theron, but James Melaart argued that a figure found in a grain bin at (*) Çatalhöyük (*chat-al-huy-ook*) was evidence for a cult dedicated to this motif. Eric Neumann argued that the Eleusinian mysteries were an outgrowth of this motif, which he claimed Isis, Sophia, and the Virgin Mary were exemplars of. For 10 points, name this mythological motif associated with such goddesses as Rhea and Cybele, which usually indicates their role as protector of children.

ANSWER: **mother** goddess [accept **great goddess**; accept **matriarchy** or similar answers; prompt on just **goddess** before mentioned; prompt on **Venus**; accept any answer indicating that the supreme/chief deity is female]

< BMC | *Mythology* >

11. A slow D major piece by this composer opens with the piano playing the ascending line [read slowly] F-sharp, A, D, before descending with C-natural, A, E. A dissonant organ *cadenza* appears in the second movement of a suite by this composer whose third movement is scored only for organ and chimes and whose final movement alternates between 7/8, 6/8, and 8/8 time signatures and ends with a distorted laugh. The Arnie Roth-conducted album series *Distant Worlds* performs music by this composer such as an orchestral (*) *Prelude* punctuated by a harp playing rising and falling partial arpeggios. A composition by this composer quotes from *Carmina Burana* with a choir singing, "*estuans interius ira vehementi*" before triumphantly proclaiming "Sephiroth!" *Dancing Mad* and *One Winged Angel* are compositions by, for 10 points, what Japanese composer who is best known for writing the music for most of the *Final Fantasy* games?

ANSWER: Nobuo **Uematsu** (The first line is Aerith's Theme from *Final Fantasy VII*.)

< EA | *Euterpe* >

12. According to Alan Rice, this dance represents the confined spaces of a slave ship. In the paper "Mapping of Black Atlantic Performance Geographies," Sonjah Stanley Niaah argued that this dance represents the life cycle. It's not calypso, but this dance's revival in the U.K. is often attributed to Edric Connor. One performer of this dance was depicted in a biopic by Sonja Dumas and was known as the "First Lady" of this dance. That dancer, Julia Edwards, invented a form of this dance where a central item is set on (*) fire. This dance may have been derived from the African Legba dance. Shemika Charles is known as the "Queen" of this dance and holds the most famous record associated with it. This dance was originally performed at Caribbean funeral rites and wakes, where it was performed in the reverse order of its most popular current iteration. For 10 points, name this Trinidadian dance that is often accompanied by the phrase "how low can you go?"

ANSWER: **limbo** [prompt on **calypso** before mentioned]

< BMC | *Terpsichore* >

13. In this character's final speech, he claims that Death had sprinkled a "pound of pepper" all over his "face and body" before shooting him in the head with an arrow. In one scene of the play in which this character appears, he is leading a company of soldiers and a poulterer named George Greengoose on a march to Mile-End. This character first appears reading *Palmerin of England* shortly before instructing Tim and his "dwarf" George to start calling "forests and heaths 'deserts'" and "all horses 'palfreys.'" This character displays his devotion to the unseen maid Susan after refusing to elope with a (*) Moldavian princess named Pompiona. This character frees a group of prisoners after defeating a giant named Barbarossa. At the insistence of a Citizen and his Wife, this character is inserted into the fictional play *The London Merchant*. For 10 points, a grocer's apprentice named Ralph portrays what character that titles a Francis Beaumont comedy?

ANSWER: The **Knight** of the **Burning Pestle** [prompt on Ralph until mentioned with, "What character does he portray?"; accept **Golden** or **Flaming** in place of "Burning" as he's called that sometimes; prompt on just knight] < MM | *Thalia* >

14. The SPT-140 type of these devices will be powered by solar panels and will be used in a mission that plans to investigate an M-type asteroid to study the origin of planetary cores. A team at Stanford is exploring the use of diamond walls in these devices due to their higher sputtering resistance. More commonly, these devices use boron nitride walls that allow for the confinement of plasma discharge. The external (*) discharge type of these devices allow for erosion free operation. The cylindrical type of these devices are more efficient at lower power levels. Each satellite in Starlink will use one of these as its main method of maneuvering. The most common propellants used in these devices are xenon and krypton gas accelerated through an electric field. For 10 points, name this propulsion system which relies on an effect where a magnetic field creates a transverse voltage in a conductor with a current flowing through: a specific type of ion drive.

ANSWER: **Hall-effect thrusters** [or **Hall-current thrusters**; prompt on ion thruster; prompt on thruster] < RP | *Urania* >

15 In his *On Animals*, Aelian says that he once heard of a winged one of these animals that terrorized the island of Clazomenae. That example of these animals is sometimes identified with Chrysaor, who is otherwise depicted as the brother of Pegasus. According to Plutarch, one of these creatures may actually have been a female bandit with an animal-like demeanor. Another one of these animals was captured after a sage advised the hero to drive it into a snowbank. While searching for one of these animals, that hero visited the (*) centaur Pholus, but ended up killing him and his friends after they became drunk. In a fit of jealousy, Ares took the form of one of these animals and killed a lover of Aphrodite. After a group of men objected to giving the skin of one of these animals to a woman, their nephew mercilessly killed them. For 10 points, name this type of animal that killed Adonis, the Calydonian one of which was killed by Meleager.

ANSWER: **boar** [or **sov**; or **pig**; or **swine**; or any other name for pigs] < BMc | *Mythology* >

16. In a poem titled for one of these places, the speaker longs for a woman who “was set on her love to a hungry world” that he calls his “dark-haired girl.” In a different poem, a man named Willy Lee laments spending “99 years underneath that ground” at one of these places. The speaker states, “I hate every inch of you” in a poem about one of these places that “blistered [him] since 1963.” A song about one of these locations in New Orleans that was written by trans artist Deena Rose was famously performed in (*) Österaker, Sweden. The speaker of one poem describes a woman “with a long black veil” visiting him after he leaves one of these places. In a poem set in one of these places, the speaker “hears a train a comin’” and “a rollin’ on down to San Antone.” That poem titled for one of these places is narrated by a man who “shot a man in Reno just to watch him die” and was recorded in a 1968 live album at one of these places. For 10 points, Johnny Cash recorded four live albums at what type of places, which include San Quentin and Folsom?

ANSWER: prisons [accept synonyms like jail or the penitentiary; accept Folsom Prison; accept San Quentin Prison; accept Österaker Prison; accept Tennessee State Prison; accept Orleans Parish Prison; prompt on Folsom, San Quentin, Österaker, or Orleans Parish alone by asking “What type of location is that?”] (The poem in the lead-in is “Orleans Parish Prison.” The poem in the second line is “Cocaine Blues.” The poem in the third line is “San Quentin.”)

< EA | *Erato* >

17. One composer from this non-France country composed the lullaby “Le Sommeil de L’enfant” and a piece named after her early promoter, the “Gottschalk Waltz.” That composer from this country was nicknamed the “Valkyrie of the Piano” and was the dedicatee of her student Edward MacDowell’s 2nd piano concerto. Another composer from this country composed incidental music to a gala honoring the actress Sarah Bernhardt and a comédie musicale detailing the title composer’s trip to France, *Mozart*. A composer from this country based one of his mélodies on Victor Hugo’s poem (*) “Si mes vers avaient des ailes” and was the lover of Marcel Proust. A conductor from this country premiered John Adams’ *City Noir* during his inaugural concert and succeeded Esa-Pekka Salonen as the conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. For 10 points, Reynaldo Hahn and Gustavo Dudamel are from what country that houses the Teresa Carreño Cultural Complex in Caracas?

ANSWER: Venezuela

< IC | *Euterpe* >

18. In a translation by Ezra Pound, one character tells his son, “what splendour, it all coheres” after realizing that because this object will kill him, it means that he will finally be happy. This item’s delivery leads to the death of a messenger whose head explodes after he is thrown against a rock. When this object is given to a herald, it is instructed to not be exposed to altar fire or sunlight -- foreshadowing a later event in which an item used to create this object dissolves into powder after being exposed to sunlight. For a long time, this object was kept in a bronze urn after it was given to a woman by a (*) ferryman on the Evenus river. This item is delivered by the herald Lichas after a woman becomes jealous of her husband’s attention to Iole and attempts to use it as a love charm. Sophocles’ play *Women of Trachis* revolves around, for 10 points, what poisoned garment that Deineira gives to Heracles?

ANSWER: the Shirt of Nessus [accept synonyms in place of “shirt” like robe, tunic, chiton, and garment; prompt on the shirt (or synonyms) used to poison Hercules; prompt on the shirt (or synonyms) that killed Heracles; accept Women of Trachis, The Trachiniae, or Trachiniai BEFORE “object” is said]

< MM | *Melpomene* >

19. In one narrative, this character stated that his home village was "miserable in winter, sultry in summer, and good at no season." In that narrative, this character won a bronze tripod in a poetry contest, which he then dedicated to the Muses with a shrine on Mt. Helicon. This character won that poetry contest in Chalcis due to his opponent's poetry being focused on "war and slaughter," while this character's poetry focused on agriculture and peace. In another work, this poet recounted a hawk chastising a nightingale for resisting being eaten, which this poet equated to resisting (*) fate. In that poem, this poet described a form of *Eris* that inspired war and a form that caused inspiration. That poem by this poet also recounts the five ages of man, which he lists as gold, silver, bronze, heroes, and iron. For 10 points, name this brother of Perses who is both the protagonist and author of the *Works and Days*.

ANSWER: **Hesiod** (the power clues are drawn from *The Contest of Homer and Hesiod*)

< BMc | *Calliope* >

20. This force lifted a siege of a Greek colony on the island of Hvar by defeating the Illyrian Liburnians at the Battle of Pharos. During one engagement, this force used animal hides in order to deflect enemy grappling hooks. The Carthaginian commander Mago crushed this force at the Battle of Catana, leading to an unsuccessful siege of the city this force was based in. That conflict with Carthage brought about the first ever use of (*) quinqueremes by this military force. In one battle, this force combined with forces from the first Greek colony on the Italian mainland to decisively defeat the Etruscans in the Bay of Naples. This military force was victorious at the Battle of Cumae and assisted in the defeat of an expedition led by Nicias. For 10 points, name this military force that conducted operations at sea for a certain Sicilian city-state.

ANSWER: **Syracusan navy** [accept any answer indicating some naval presence of **Syracuse**; prompt on **Syracusan military**; do NOT accept or prompt on answers indicating the "Syracusan army"]

< TC | *Clio* >