

Christmas Present - Humanity's beautiful dark twisted fantasies, all in one set. Sort of.
Questions by Will Alston

PACKET 6

1. An analogous figure to this character presents Peredur, son of Efwrawg with a severed head on a platter. Manessier relates that this character broke into grief after the sword that killed his brother Goondesert shattered into pieces. This character's father, a Christian king who died in battle against the pagan ruler Varlan, is named Lambar. This character's home is the ultimate destination of the quest in the unfinished fifth romance of Chrétien de Troyes. In many tales, after falling into sin, this character is (*) stabbed by a bleeding lance in what is known as the Dolorous Stroke, after which his realm becomes barren. In *Parzival*, this brother-in-law of Joseph of Arimathea is given the name Anfortas. For 10 points, name this ruler of the Wasteland, a character tasked with guarding the Holy Grail in Arthurian myth.

ANSWER: The Fisher King [or The Wounded King until "Wounded" is read; or Pelles; accept Anfortas until it is read]

2. In an essay, this thinker argued that the title concept is defined by an absence of a need for explanation and that general agreement with reason derives from the fluency of arguments and "a strong feeling of ease, rest." An essay by this thinker argues that the skeptic's position of waiting for more light manages to avoid the error of false religion, but still does not provide benefit if religion is true, so it is not a way around a (*) forced option. In that essay, this author of "The Sentiment of Rationality" argues that, to an empiricist, the source of a hypothesis does not affect its ultimate truth, so the conclusions that one is able to reach justify the assumptions made; thus, this thinker defends religious faith. For 10 points, name this author of "The Will to Believe."

ANSWER: William James

3. This thinker's work on Madagascar includes extensive studies of the almost-stateless existence of the Tsimihety people and his dissertation on a former slave village, titled *Lost People*. This non-Jaspers thinker argues that money came to prominence during the Axial Age as a way to measure "human economies" in a book which notes the double-meaning of the German word *Schuld*, or "guilt." This thinker, who argued that the basis of most social life is "everyday communism", said there was an "elective affinity" between (*) anarchist programs and anthropology in his monograph *Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology*. Another of his books argues that credit has remained the most prestigious form of lending, since barter and cash are reserved for interaction with the less trusted, and that this has been true since Sumerian civilization. For 10 points, name this author of *Towards an Anthropological Theory of Value* and *Debt: The First 5000 Years*.

ANSWER: David Graeber

4. This object's creator is usually given as a son of Arestor from Thespieae. This object and all of its users are blessed by a goddess on account of a grudge over the murder of Sidero. After being moved to Corinth during the reign of Creon, this object is consecrated to Poseidon. Vows to leave with this object and return with it decked in ivy are taken at the beginning of an epic by Valerius Flaccus; that epic describes this object's creation on Mount (*) Pelion near the home of Chiron. A pursuing army is prevented from reaching this object at the shore when Absyrtus is cut to death by his sister. A part of this object cut from the sacred woods at Dodona was able to speak, and later fell on this object's most famous user and killed him. For 10 points, name this ship which, in an epic by Apollonius of Rhodes, sails to Colchis under Jason's command.

ANSWER: the Argo [accept the prow of the Argo]

5. Traditional canopied thrones were no longer used during these events after they were eschewed on account of summer heat in 1978. Officials are readmitted to these event after the question "Quo nomine vis vocari?" is asked. The secretaries of these event were traditionally given a red *zucchetto* and consequently elevated in status. These events are held *soon after* [emphasize] the *camerlengo* uses a pair of shears to cut the old Ring of the (*) Fisherman and taps a corpse with a silver hammer. This event is begun with the annunciation of "Extra Omnes", meaning "everybody out." The outcome of this event is determined by the color of the smoke emitted from the building it takes place in - white or black. For 10 points, identify these meetings of the College of Cardinals which are convened to choose a new Bishop of Rome.

ANSWER: papal conclaves [accept anything that indicates the choosing or election of a new pope; prompt on Sede Vacante or Vacant Seat or papal interregnum or equivalents]

6. Louis-Auguste Blanqui's formulation of this concept is compared with that of another thinker and drawn upon to help understand Parisian architecture in Walter Benjamin's *Arcades Project*. This concept, which is explained to a dwarf who says "all that is straight lies" about a gate, was explained by Walter Kaufmann as envisaging the world reaching its end in every moment as part of a "supra-historical" point of view. The concept of "hierophany" is presented in a book which discusses the function of (*) myth as essentially propagating this concept; that book is by Mircea Eliade. This concept, which is commonly symbolized by an *ouroboros*, is explained via a prophet's discussion of the path of the soul in *Also Sprach Zarathustra*. For 10 points, identify this Nietzschean concept of a finite number of events occurring repeatedly across time.

ANSWER: eternal return [or eternal recurrence; prompt on immortality of the soul]

7. This thinker examined the histories of overseas Chinese and Lebanese in an essay arguing that anti-Semitism is a specific case of discrimination against "middle-man" minorities titled "Are Jews Generic?" Stephen Pinker's *The Blank Slate* references this thinker's contrast between "constrained" and "unconstrained" views of human nature as the most sweeping analysis of divisions between left and right. This thinker excluded graphs and equations from his "Citizen's Guide to the Economy" titled (*) *Basic Economics*. This author of *A Conflict of Visions* collected six essays examining the intersection of race and culture into *Black Rednecks and White Liberals*. This frequent collaborator with Walter Williams examined the impact of variables like age and education and distinguished the effects of rural and urban slavery in *Race and Economics*. For 10 points, name this conservative African-American economist at Stanford's Hoover Institution.

ANSWER: Thomas Sowell

8. In West Bengal, the ceremonies for this event are conducted in public platforms called *thakur dalan*. In Calcutta, the most elaborate *pandals* are constructed for this event, which is often kicked off these days with a two-hour long radio program on which the Chandipath is read. This event begins on Mahalya and lasts six days, the last of which is called Dussehara. Skilled drummers called *dhaki* often dance during the (*) *aarti* that is part of this event, which is performed during the festival of Navratri. This event involves the submerging of the idol of the slaying of the buffalo-demon Mahishasura. For 10 points, identify this devotional ceremony dedicated to a martial Hindu goddess.

ANSWER: Durga puja [prompt on puja or anything mentioning Shakti; accept Navratri or Dussehara until "Dussehara" is read; afterwards, prompt on Navratri until it too is read]

9. This thinker included a collection of tattoos he found on the bodies of prostitutes in an early book of sexology that argued that women are naturally habitual liars, as per what he said was common knowledge, and are far more ruthless than men. This thinker often tested subjects by placing their fists in water after connecting them to a hydrosphygmograph. This thinker requested that his head placed in a jar of preservative after his death and collected lots of “psychiatric art” as evidence for his thesis that artistic genius was rooted in inherited insanity, which he also identified as the root of (*) epilepsy. This thinker, who developed the positivist school of criminology, advocated the detection of what he called “stigmata” through phrenology and other methods to find those of inherently worse moral character. For 10 points, name this degeneration theorist who believed atavistic traits were the roots of criminal behavior, a thinker from Italy.

ANSWER: Cesare Lombroso

10. This thinker defended a choice of job by saying it fulfilled a wish to have “no obligatory occupation that would inhibit the freedom” of studies. This thinker used the word “Kircherize” to refer to playful inquiry into the cosmos on account of the Hermeticist Athanasius Kircher’s influence on her works. In an allegorical work by this thinker that explores Christ’s nature as a man who stares at himself in a pool, the character Religion demands that Occident and (*) America renounce their native religions. The *milieu* of this author of *Loa to Divine Narcissus* is examined as a unique form salon in a critical biography subtitled “The Traps of Faith.” This author defended women’s right to an education in her *Reply to Sister Philotea of the Cross* and depicted the ascension of the soul towards learning in her *First Dream*. For 10 points, name this 17th-century nun and writer from Mexico.

ANSWER: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz [or Sister Juana]

11. An apocryphal book about this man’s *Acts* states that he was stoned to death while preaching during a festival of Diana. This man is given as the child of a female Jew and a Greek in Acts 16. A letter to this man uses the phrase “itching ears” to describe those who seek out teachings and doctrines which affirm their own lifestyles, not those of apostles. This man and Paul are the two given authors at the beginning of Philippians. He’s not from Corinth, but a book named for this man states “But I suffer not a (*) woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over a man, but to remain in silence.” This man is advised “do not let anyone look down on you because you are young.” For 10 points, name this addressee of two Pauline Epistles, a young man ministering in Ephesus.

ANSWER: (Saint) Timothy [or Timotheus; accept either First or Second Timothy]

12. A god usually shown in the form of one of these animals wept so much after withdrawing from the sacrifice to create the fifth sun that his eyes fell out of their sockets. The legendary *cadejo* [“*ca-DEH-ho*”] has hooves like a deer, but otherwise resembles this animal. Depictions of the *ahuizotl* are often confused with these animals, since the *ahuizotl* was basically one of these that lived underwater. A god who usually takes this form guides his twin brother on a journey in which that brother blows into a (*) conch and retrieves some jade bones. To please the god Ilyapa during droughts, the Inca would commonly tie up a black one of these animals until it was dying of thirst. The psychopomp Xolotl [“*sho-LO-tl*”] was depicted with the body of a skeleton and the head of one of these animals. For 10 points, identify these common animals in myth, another example of which was Cerberus.

ANSWER: dogs

13. It's not unemployment, but a 1977 paper by Stanley Fischer incorporates rational expectations in explaining how this phenomenon may arise from long-term contracts and concludes that monetary policy can help mitigate it. The Shapiro-Stiglitz model explains this phenomenon as resulting from the provision of incentives to combat shirking. Either informational inadequacy OR this phenomenon accounts for why the short run aggregate supply curve has a positive slope. (*) Menu costs for firms help explain why this phenomenon exists in the short term. Keynes explained unemployment as arising in recessions because this phenomenon causes lag in adjusting to equilibrium when wages fail to fall adequately to match changes in demand. For 10 points, give this economic term for a price's resistance to change.

ANSWER: wage/price stickiness [accept any variation of the word sticky or anything containing the word rigidity]

14. Surah *an-Nas* or "the People" calls this character and his cohort "the whisperers." According to some Sufis, such as al-Hallaj, this character is paradoxically said to be the model of the supreme lover of God, which thus explains his willingness to endure the rejection from his disobedience in al-Baqarah 36. In Islam, this character is given a name meaning "despair." This character, whose original name is given as Azazel, is said to be the cause of *riya*. Since this character is made of (*) smokeless fire and is a *jinn*, he considers himself superior to those made of clay and thus refuses to bow before Adam. In a ritual conducted atop Jamarah bridge, this character is the supposed target of three pebbles thrown during the *hajj* as his symbolic stoning. For 10 points, name this most prominent resident of Jahannam, the main inciter of evil in Islam.

ANSWER: Shaitan [or Satan; or Iblis; or the devil (in Islam)]

15. Since Zeus worked with this deity to hide his affair with Elara from Hera, their child Tityos is sometimes said to be a son of this deity. Apollo entrusted the care of Aristaetus to this deity, who made him immortal. This deity was often shown accompanied by friendly spirits of fruit and agriculture called *karpoi*. The preface to Hyginus's *Fabulae* claims that this deity's union with Aether resulted in a child with whom (*) she herself conceived Thaumias, Ceto, and Phorcys. When Athena wiped Hephaestus's semen off her thigh, this goddess conceived Erichthonius, who is alternatively called an autochthonous being. This deity gave birth to the Giants after being impregnated when, at her encouragement, Cronus castrated her husband Uranus. For 10 points, name this primordial Greek goddess of the Earth.

ANSWER: Gaia

16. This thinker analogized poetry to chemistry, saying that the poet's task was to precipitate perceptions through word sequences. This thinker distinguished between authors who write for the subject's sake and authors who write for writing's sake in an essay from his *The Art of Literature*. This thinker ranked paintings of still lives below genre and historical painting since they offer more pure aesthetic pleasure and less objectification of the essence of life. This thinker's view of aesthetics was centered around a (*) hierarchy of the arts which placed music at the top, since he believed it to be a direct articulation of his concept of the inner nature of our being. That nature was, for this thinker, a form of meaningless, endless striving, a view influenced by his reading of the Upanishads. For 10 points, name this author of *The World as Will and Representation*.

ANSWER: Arthur Schopenhauer

17. This philosopher's conception of the One and unity of being was likely influenced by his monotheist teacher, who wrote against anthropomorphic depictions of the gods. A work by this philosopher opens with a passage describing a journey into the halls of night in a chariot. That work by this philosopher distinguishes between two methods of inquiry called "that-is" and "that-not-is" and dismisses the latter since existence is eternal and only nothing comes from nothing - this position is articulated by a (*) goddess in a temple. In a dialogue titled for this man, he presents the arguments of *aporia* and one about the infinite regress of forms of largeness as refutations of the Theory of Forms. This student of Xenophanes of Colophon distinguished between the "way of truth" and the "way of opinion" in the hexameter proem *On Nature*. For 10 points, name this founder of the Eleatic school.

ANSWER: Parmenides

18. An ancient king is said to have visited this location in a chariot drawn by eight horses, whose coats turned white after the journey. Older traditions represented this location's primary inhabitant as a plague-carrying human spirit with the teeth and tail of a tiger, though that character was typically later represented as benevolent. A hero who receives a magic potion at this location is warned that consuming all of it causes the drinker to ascend to heaven. An orchard at this location produces fruit that are only served at feasts every (*) 6,000 years. At this location, an archer married to the goddess of the moon shoots nine of the ten sun-birds out of the sky. This location is where the peaches of immortality are kept by the Queen Mother of the West. For 10 points, name this western mountain paradise from Chinese mythology.

ANSWER: Mount Kunlun [or Kunlun shan; or Kuen-lun; accept Jade Mountain until "magic potion" is read; accept descriptive answers involving Xi Wangmu or The Queen Mother of the West and some form of place of residence until "Queen" is read; prompt on Chinese heaven or tian but do not accept or prompt on "Jade Emperor's palace" or equivalents]

19. The "psycho" and "social" aspects of this concept are examined in a discussion of it in "autobiographical perspective" in the book *Life History and the Historical Moment*. This concept is placed in the transition between the "foreclosure" and "moratorium" phases in a four-phase model developed by James Marcia. This concept's formulator said that it could result in a "second birth" as in the case of a man whose doubts over being a (*) "good son" grew into rebellion against the church. Depending on whether it is resolved or not, this kind of event leads to either fidelity or diffusion, respectively. This kind of event typically occurs during the fifth of a certain theorist's stages of psychosocial development, which falls during adolescence when role confusion is most pronounced. For 10 points, identify this confusion about sense of self whose name was coined by Erik Erikson.

ANSWER: identity crisis [accept loose equivalents like identity confusion; accept identity cohesion versus role confusion until mentioned; accept Erikson's fifth stage of psychosocial development or equivalents before mentioned; DO NOT accept or prompt on "existential crisis"]

20. This non-Spanish philosopher challenged the notion of the historical uniqueness of Goethe like Jose Ortega y Gasset. This philosopher influenced Ortega and is often compared compared to him, just like a man who translated this philosopher's work into English, R. G. Collingwood. This thinker's view that historical thought is necessary for practice and that practice is also necessary for historical thought, termed "circularity", is part of the historicist view outlined in his *History as Thought and Action*. Despite disagreeing on politics, this philosopher remained friends with his fellow Hegelian and much less liberal co-editor of (*) *La Critica*, Giovanni Gentile. This man is best known in philosophy for distinguishing the representative and expressive functions of art and basically arguing that art is expression. For 10 points, name this anti-Fascist Italian philosopher who wrote *Essence of Aesthetic*.

ANSWER: Benedetto Croce