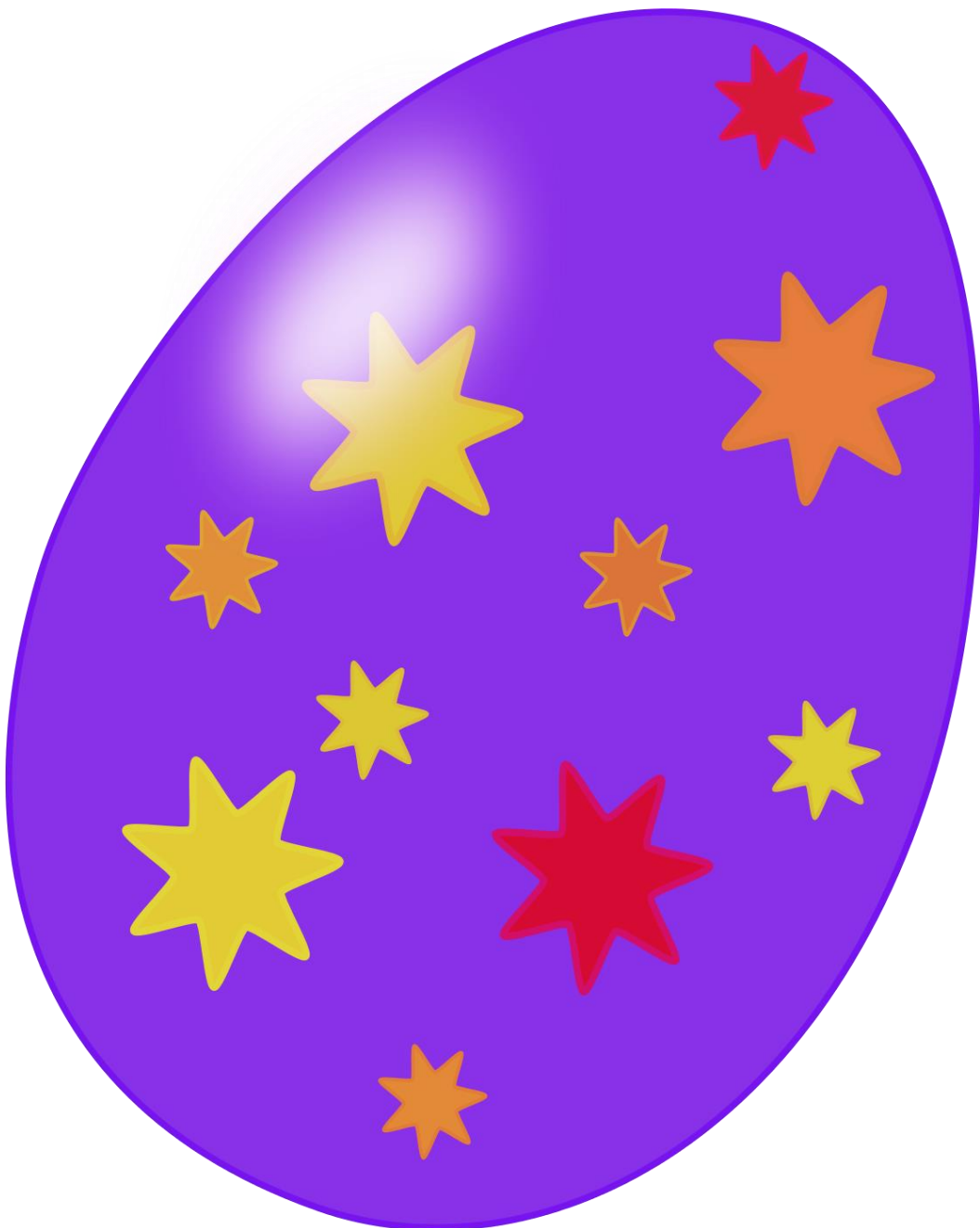


*Thomas Stearns Eliot*

*Blavatsky will instruct me  
in the seven sacred trances*



## A Cooking Egg<sup>1</sup>

*En l'an trentiesme de mon aage  
Que toutes mes hontes j'ay beues . . .*<sup>2</sup>

Pipit sate upright in her chair  
Some distance from where I was sitting;  
*Views of the Oxford Colleges*  
Lay on the table, with the knitting.

Daguerreotypes and silhouettes,  
Her grandfather and great great aunts,  
Supported on the mantelpiece  
*An Invitation to the Dance.*

I shall not want Honour in Heaven  
For I shall meet Sir Philip Sidney  
And have talk with Coriolanus  
And other heroes of that kidney.

I shall not want Capital in Heaven  
For I shall meet Sir Alfred Mond.  
We two shall lie together, lapt  
In a five per cent. Exchequer Bond.

I shall not want Society in Heaven,  
Lucretia Borgia shall be my Bride;  
Her anecdotes will be more amusing  
Than Pipit's experience could provide.

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<sup>1</sup> First appeared in T.S. Eliot's second collection of *Poems*, 1919. For a short analysis of the poem click [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.*, "By the 30<sup>th</sup> year of my life, I have drunk up all my shame," epigraph from François Villon, the best known French poet of the late Middle Ages.

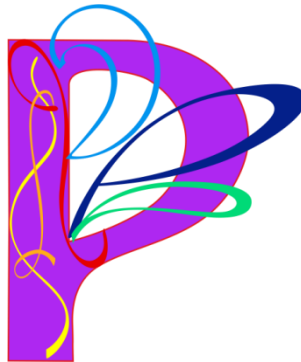
I shall not want Pipit in Heaven:  
Madame Blavatsky will instruct me  
In the Seven Sacred Trances;  
Piccarda de Donati will conduct me.

... ..

But where is the penny world I bought  
To eat with Pipit behind the screen?  
The red-eyed scavengers are creeping  
From Kentish Town and Golder's Green;

Where are the eagles and the trumpets?

Buried beneath some snow-deep Alps.  
Over buttered scones and crumpets  
Weeping, weeping multitudes  
Droop in a hundred A.B.C.'s.<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> [A.B.C.'s stands for Aerated Bread Company Ltd, an allusion to the overabundance of teashops in London. A.B.C. was established in 1862 by Dr. John Dauglish, a Scottish doctor, who invented a commercial process of making bread rise fast and "hygienically" without fermentation by introducing carbon dioxide, instead of yeast. The idea for opening tearooms is attributed to a London-based manager of A.B.C., who had been serving free tea and snacks to customers. The motivation for the company acting upon the manager's suggestion was to supplement the income derived from bread manufacture, which was not sufficient to pay a dividend to shareholders.]