

vatic



vatic

Word of the Day - for Toastmasters everywhere

Monday 13th June 2022



vatic

(adjective) VAT-ik

Prophetic, inspired.

Lurie has nailed a complex character in Delia, an appalling egotist who can segue without warning "into a **vatic** Jungian mode".

Lucy Ellman, *The Guardian*, 8 October 2005, *Guardian* reviewing Alison Lurie's *Truth and Consequences*.

This relentlessly **vatic** work - in which a young woman confronts and redeems a man condemned to death for killing an innocent man - is a collaboration between Sam Shepard and the late Joseph Chaikin, more interesting for buffs and chefs (the killer is a cook and offers some good tips) than for punters.

Susannah Clapp, *The Observer*, 21 September 2003. *The Observer*

There is interest, too, in the pre-1946 poems, wherein Auden's jaunty knowing and Yeats's **vatic** largeness and Eliot's dour, mocking music conspire with a faux-rural imagery of wind and sea and sun and trees and heart and blood to enwrap the young Larkin in a fog of abstraction and myth that delay his arrival at the mundane realism, vivid in each wistful, shabby detail, that we know will become his.

John Updike, *The New Yorker*, 26 July 2004. *The New Yorker*

And yet, determined to remember every minute leading up to his mother's suicide, he also sees through a child's eye the prelude to statehood in a Promised Land: the gabby idealisms, **vatic** visions and rich, combustible mix of poet-worker-revolutionaries, vegetarian world reformers, pioneer readers of Marx, Freud and Jabotinsky, pious Meah Shearim Jews, "Zion-hating" ultraorthodox communists, "men of khaki," "eaters of salad with an omelette and yogurt," outcasts, nihilists, Yemenites, Frenchified Levantines and Kurds; the dusty cypresses, pale geraniums and pickled gherkins; the lace curtains, boiled fish, Lysol and paraffin; the youth movements, curfews, Maccabees and Stern Gang; the geckos and scorpions, witches and snails, Shakespeare and Chopin, Gilgamesh and Nemo; the blunt razor blades, cheap sardines, smelly cigarettes, barbed wire and snipers; leopards in a garden on a Sabbath afternoon

and mosques turning gold when the sun sets.

John Leonard, *The New York Times*, 12 December 2004, New York Times reviewing Amos Oz's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*.

It's not quite right to call Larkin a prophet because others also saw it coming, but there is a certain **vatic** quality to that poem, which was commissioned, incidentally, by the Department of the Environment for a report called How Do You Want to Live?

Michael Henderson, *Telegraph*, 3 February 2007. Telegraph