With its thoughtful analysis and engaging writing style, this guide provides readers with the tools they need to approach Eliot's works with confidence, while at the same time encouraging them to draw their own meaning from the Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats. The 'felt significance' of religious poetry (Andy Mousley), ennui as a modern evil (Scott Freer), Eliot's pre-conversion encounter with 'modernist theology' (Joanna Rzepa), Eliot's 'religious agrarianism' (Jeremy Diaper), the maternal allegory...

...This said, Eliot's spiritual development was not a logical matter and his devotional poetry is rarely didactic. The volume presents a rich and powerful range of essays by leading and emerging T.S. Eliot and literary modernist scholars, Eliot's religious poetry, and this edited collection pays particular attention to the multivalent spiritual dimensions of his popular poems, such as 'The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock', 'The Waste Land', 'Journey of the Magi', 'The Hollow Men', 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock', 'Gerontion', 'Macavity', the Hollow Men, The Family Reunion, Little Gidding, T.S. Eliot's Poetry and Plays...into a handful of dust'; and (its last line) the mantra in the Sanskrit language "Shantih shantih shantih." Eliot probably worked on what was to become The Waste Land for several years preceding its first publication.