

1985

# Credo

Ezra Pound

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## Credo · *Ezra Pound*\*

Mr Eliot who is at times an excellent poet and who has arrived at the supreme Eminence among english critics largely through disguising himself as a corpse once asked in the course of an amiable article what “I believed.”

Having a strong disbelief in abstract and general statement as a means of conveying one’s thought to others I have for a number of years answered such questions by telling the enquirer to read Confucius and Ovid. This can do no harm to the intelligent and the unintelligent may be damned.

Given the material means I would replace the statue of Venus on the cliffs of Terracina. I would erect a temple to Artemis in Park Lane. I believe that a light from Eleusis persisted throughout the middle ages and set beauty in the song of Provence and of Italy.

I believe that postwar “returns to christianity” (and its various subdivisions) have been merely the gran’ rifiute and, in general, signs of fatigue.

I do not expect science (mathematics, biology; etc) to lead us back to the unwarrantable assumptions of theologians.

I do not expect the machine to dominate the human consciousness that created it.

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