

Unusual vocabulary in Kerrigan

All definitions of English words are taken from the OED online, unless otherwise noted..

91 pneumatology: The science, doctrine, or theory of spirits or spiritual beings

92 Hermeneutic circle: hermeneutics is the theory of interpretation, of how we interpret. The hermeneutic circle is a phenomenon by which "our understanding of the parts hinges on our understanding of a larger whole, which, again, can only be understood on the basis of the parts" ([Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)).

95 "when, for example, the Lady is left paralyzed after successfully repelling her tempter": the "Lady" here refers to a character in Milton's early drama, *Comus*, not to *Paradise Lost*.

98 typology: The study of symbolic representation, esp. of the origin and meaning of Scriptural types; a type is that by which something is symbolized or figured; anything having a symbolical signification; a symbol, emblem; spec. in [Christian] Theol. a person, object, or event of Old Testament history, [believed to be] prefiguring some person or thing revealed in the new dispensation.

ontological: pertaining to the nature or essence of being or existence.

100 *res*: thing.

semantics: (the study or analysis of) relationships between linguistic symbols and their meanings.

102 scatological: excremental.

103 monism: Any theory, or system of thought or belief, that assumes a single ultimate principle, being, force, etc., rather than more than one.

104 polysemy: The fact of having several meanings; the possession of multiple meanings, senses, or connotations.

105 Oedipus complex: see the related article in [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)

psychogenesis: The origin or development of the soul, mind, character, etc.; the psychological origin or cause to which a given behaviour, condition, etc., may be attributed.

112 Pelagian: relating to beliefs that original sin is not transmissible, that human will is capable of good independent of divine grace.

113 apodictic: established on incontrovertible (absolutely certain) evidence.

117 voluntarism: a doctrine which regards will as the fundamental principle or dominant factor either in the individual or the universe. (Here, the idea that God gives the commandment which forbids eating the fruit purely as an expression of his will, arbitrarily choosing that particular act to forbid rather than forbidding it because of the nature of the act that is forbidden).

119 *gutta serena*: a medical term for Milton's particular form of blindness, the "drop serene."

124 mentality: i.e., a purely intellectual or mental (vs. corporeal) existence.

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