

**Apocalisse a Lanzarote.
Evocazione e invocazione della fine
in Walter Siti e Michel Houellebecq**

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Abstract

Apocalypse in Lanzarote. Evocation and invocation of the end of the world in Walter Siti and Michel Houellebecq

This paper reflects on the theme of the apocalypse in Lanzarote (2000) by Michel Houellebecq and in "Intermezzo vulcanico" – included in the novel La natura è innocente (2020) – by Walter Siti. Considering the representation of the apocalyptic space in the biblical text, and through the analyses of destroyed cities (e.g. Los Angeles) in Postmodern literature, this essay aims to understand the reasons why these two authors chose to set their apocalypse specifically in Lanzarote. My argument is that Lanzarote is very different from any typical apocalyptic city, as for example Los Angeles would be – as it is today, it looks as if it experienced a former apocalypse. Building on this important spatial difference, we attempt to prove how Siti and Houellebecq, both partially rejecting the apocalyptic rhetoric, end up evocating and yearning the end of the world.

Keywords: apocalypse; postmodernism; comparative literature; Walter Siti; Michel Houellebecq.