“The time,” said David Bowie to William Burroughs, “is five years to go before the end of the earth.”

Bowie was explaining to Burroughs some of the ideas underlying his fifth studio album, _The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars_, which had been released about a year and half earlier.

The two were meeting for the first time at the behest of Craig Copetas, who was conducting a two-way interview of them for Rolling Stone Magazine.

The meeting was on November 17, 1973 — two years and two days after the first recording session for _Ziggy Stardust_ had ended.

While their meeting was not as significant in literary history as say the dinner Horace Liveright had with Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, and James Joyce on January 4, 1922, where by the end of dinner that night, Liveright had retained the services of Pound as his European “book scout” for $500 a year, and had agreed to publish _The Waste Land_ for a $1,000 advance, for devotees of early 1970s music and literature, it belongs in the same conversation.

And speaking of T. S. Eliot’s _The Waste Land_, Burroughs just happens to compare it to some of Bowie’s writing.