

***The Naming Of Cats*** T.S. Elliott (adapted for the stage by Andrew Lloyd Webber)

They are proud, however, and they explain to their human visitors who they are and reveal that cats have three different names: the one the family uses daily, the more dignified name and a secret name. It is the cat's contemplation of the latter that keeps felines in deep thought.

ALL (Whispering):

The naming of cats is a difficult matter  
It isn't just one of your holiday games  
You may think at first I'm mad as a hatter  
When I tell you a cat must have three different names

First of all, there's the name that the family use daily  
Such as Peter, Augustus, Alonzo or James  
Such as Victor or Jonathan, George or Bill Bailey  
All of them are sensible, everyday names

But I tell you a cat needs a name that's particular  
A name that's peculiar and more dignified  
Else how can he keep up his tail perpendicular?  
Or spread out his whiskers or cherish his pride?

Of names of this kind, I can give you a quorum  
Such as Munkustrap, Quaxo or Coricopat  
Such as Bombalurina, or else Jellylorum  
Names that never belong to more than one cat

But above and beyond there's still one name left over  
And that is the name that you will never guess  
The name that no human research can discover  
But the cat himself knows and will never confess

When you notice a cat in profound meditation  
The reason, I tell you, is always the same  
His mind is engaged in rapt contemplation  
Of the thought, of the thought, of the thought of his name

His ineffable, effable, effanineffable  
Deep and inscrutable singular name  
Name, name, name, name, name, name

In life, you discover that people are called by three names: One is the name the person is called by his father and mother; one is the name people call him; and one is the name he acquires for himself. The best one is the one he acquires for himself. (*Tanchuma, Vayak'heil 1*)

Each of us has a name given by God and given by our parents. Each of us has a name given by our stature and our smile and given by what we wear./ Each of us has a name given by the mountains and given by our walls./ Each of us has a name given by the stars and given by our neighbors./ Each of us has a name given by our sins and given by our longing./ Each of us has a name given by our enemies and given by our love./ Each of us has a name given by our celebrations and given by our work./ Each of us has a name given by the seasons and given by our blindness./ Each of us has a name given by the sea and given by our death. (**Zelda, “Each Man Has a Name,” as adapted by Marcia Falk in *The Book of Blessings*, New York: Harper Collins, 1996, p. 106ff.)**