

RÉSUMÉ EN ANGLAIS/ABSTRACT

This dissertation is devoted to the analysis of mythical constellation in the works of the Belgian French-speaking writer and psychoanalyst Henry Bauchau (1913-2012). Starting from the specific nature of the vital author's process of writing and his creation "within his constellation borders", the subject of our research is mythical figures, originating from different cultural backgrounds (the Greco Roman Antiquities, the Bible, oriental civilizations) as well as from the History or the backgrounds belonging to the author's personal mythology that inhabit in the literary world of Bauchau. Through interaction, coalescence, surprising transformations, overlapping and mutual enrichment, the male and female mythical figures form the specific constellations of literary and imaginary space of the writer, called modern Sophocles.

In the introduction, we presented the state of literary studies. The remarkable flexibility of the myth that easily adapts to all literary genres, contributed to the choice of the body of analyzed works, including both prose (novels and short stories), poetry, theatre and intimate diaries of the writer. The universal character of the myth implied, in turn, interdisciplinary perspective of our research.

In the first, theoretical part of the paper, we discussed the chosen concepts and functions of myth and tried to work out the definition of myth, which seemed to us to be the most adequate to analyze the writings of Henry Bauchau. Next, we focused on the deliberations of the Belgian author of the specificity and the role of myth in literature and presented the four basic categories of myths: Greek, biblical, historical and personal - forming both the foundations and limits of the literary universe of Henry Bauchau.

In the second, analytical part of the research, consisting of three chapters, we have identified and discussed three major constellations: mythical figures of men, of women and of mythical creatures. In the first chapter, devoted to male mythical characters, we analyzed the constellations of brothers enemies, rebellious sons and a personal myth of the writer, which partly derives from them. In the second chapter, our attention was focused on the constellation of mythical female figures, within which we distinguished constellations of Jocasta, Eve, the Virgin Mary, Sibyl and beheaded Kali. The third and final chapter of the analytical part was devoted to the constellation of mythical creatures, including animals, hybrid creatures and monsters. It was also an opportunity to analyze the concept of beauty by Henry Bauchau.

The creative transformations, metamorphosis, interference and coalescence of the characters and mythical creatures in all literary genres used by the author, reveal the

fundamental issue of the works of the Belgian writer's desire to understand himself, the Other, socio-political problems in modern times, people's role in society and compiled meanders of History, and paradoxes associated with the process of creation. Henry Bauchau constantly oscillates between what is mythical, personal and historical - three fundamental vectors that allow to immerse in the literary world of the author of *Oedipus on the road*.

Seeing the myths as a starting point for understanding the present and the future, in the variety of mythologies the writer is looking for values that have been repressed from the consciousness of modern consumer societies, based on "predatory" individualism and the primacy of technology - destroying social ties and limiting their contact with humans. In Bauchau's writings, demystifying progress, perceived as one of the founding myths of modernity goes hand in hand with the need to mythologize reality, understood as a desire for the sacred, for the inexpressible and unknowable.

Through creative dialogue with characters and mythical creatures the writer gives them new meanings. As a result of this literary "resuscitation" Bauchau allows them to return and take root again in the consciousness of the modern reader. Filling his literary microcosm with mythical constellations, Henry Bauchau reveals the fullness of nature and of human existence, which are based on the inevitable contradictions and conflicts between the conscious and the unconscious, between masculine and feminine, between the human and animal, between the sacred and the profane, Eros and Thanatos, good and evil, beauty and monstrosity, spirituality and corporeality, reality and imagination, the subject and History, *logos* and *mythos*.

The driving force behind the work of Henry Bauchau is three fundamental questions: where we come from, who we are, where we are going. The writer and his protagonists face them. In this quest for understanding human existence, which sneak out all explicit and rational explanations, lies the tragedy and at the same time fascination with the mystery of life that set the Bauchau's characters in constant motion between past, present and future, and are at the source of modern mythology of the Belgian creator.

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