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## ABSTRACT

### **"Like a river of light in the second light of the river" Mystical tones of the works of Juliusz Słowacki and Karol Wojtyła - John Paul II**

The dissertation is concerned with the issue of mysticism in the late works of Juliusz Słowacki and the early works of Karol Wojtyła – John Paul II. The nature of the imagination of both poets and the literary space filled with mystical symbols encourage the attempt to show their common elements.

In line with the French thematic criticism, the introduction starts with an essayistic discourse on Juliusz Słowacki's late work and the factors that resulted in an attempt to analyze the works of the Romantic poet with the works of Karol Wojtyła - John Paul II.

The first chapter *The River of Light. An Introduction*, outlines the issues and the goal of this dissertation, as well as the criteria for the text selection, methodology and the state of research.

The second chapter, entitled *Mysticism and Mystical Poetry*, is concerned with the discussion of the multifaceted concept of mysticism, which was presented from two different perspectives: as a religious and literary experience. It was crucial to differentiate between strictly religious mysticism (being a personal experience with a real justification – the evidence of internal crossing of the threshold of transcendence or meeting with The Absolute) and literary exemplification of a certain kind of spirituality or purely literary, imaginative devices. This chapter describes various types of religious experiences depending on the particular faith and cultural background from which the experiencing subject comes, as well as outlines the view of mysticism in Christian perspective. The works necessary for the analysis of Karol Wojtyła's works were mentioned: i.e. St. John of the Cross, St. Teresa of Avilla or Pseudo-Dionysius Areopagite. Among the analyzed material there were also representatives of premystic philosophy, such as the orphics and Plato, as well as much later Andrzej Towiański, who contributed to Słowacki's thought process. The topic of literary mysticism is related to the concept of the *sacrum*, and by emphasizing the word, talking about something that is seemingly inexpressible, takes the reader to the area of symbolism. The literary approach serves as an attempt to look at the works of Karol Wojtyła and Juliusz Słowacki as highly spiritual pieces in which mysticism plays a superior role and describes the reality that crosses the threshold of transcendence. The main mystical categories are for example: light, darkness, silence, cross, sacrifice, mother, rainbow and the theme of passage.

In chapter three *Via pulchritudinis*, in line with the authors for whom the most important element of mystical experience was to lead humanity on the path of truth, good and beauty, there are three subchapters, the first two of which analyze the roots of Christian thought in pagan times (ancient Greece) and prove the existence of universal spirituality in the world. The third subchapter is related to the figure of the Mother of God as the mystical path to Christ.

The composition of the fourth chapter aims to show the mystical imagination combined with visual arts and musical works, as well as the belief based on common roots that the Slavs play a significant role. The desire of both poets to show Christian universalism and the element of God present in the world is emphasized. The chapter ending, and at the same time a specific summary of the dissertation, is the analysis of the two most mystical works by the writers: Songs about Hidden God by Karol Wojtyła and King-Spirit by Juliusz Słowacki, which both focus on the category of love.

The dissertation is complemented with: Conclusion and Bibliography.

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