Maciej Skowera, "Entry on: Adonis by Franciszek Kobryńczuk", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Katarzyna Marciniak. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1558. Entry version as of November 06, 2026.

Franciszek Kobryńczuk

Adonis

Poland (2015)

TAGS: Adonis Aphrodite Artemis Hades Metamorphosis Persephone





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Adonis
Country of the First Edition	Poland
Country/countries of popularity	Poland
Original Language	Polish
First Edition Date	2015
First Edition Details	Franciszek Kobryńczuk, "Adonis", *Biuletyn Północno-Wschodniej Izby Lekarsko-Weterynaryjnej* [Bulletin of the North-Eastern Veterinary Chamber] 57.3 (2015): 96–98 (accessed: September 13, 2022).
ISBN	ISSN 2081-3708
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Genre	Narrative poetry, Poetry
Target Audience	Children
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Creators



Photograph courtesy of the Author.

Franciszek Kobryńczuk , 1929 - 2016
(Author)

A veterinarian, professor of veterinary sciences specializing in animal anatomy (an authority on the anatomy of the Polish bison), writer, and poet. 1948–1950: a member of a secret youth organization active within the post-WW2 underground connected to Armia Krajowa [Home Army], banned by the Communist regime; in 1950 he was sentenced to a 10-year prison term for this activity; fully exonerated after the fall of Communism. Graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW); from 1994 to 2000 Head of the Department of Animal Anatomy at the same University. Debuted as an author for children in 1958 with a short poem *Sowa* [Owl], published in children's magazine "Miś"; contributor to several other magazines for children and young adults, such as "Świerszczyk," "Płomyk," "Płomyczek," and "Mały Apostoł"; author of about 30 books for children, young adults and adults; a former member of the Polish Writers' Union; now his poems can be found most of all online. The page ewa.bicom.pl/wierszedzieci run by a Kobryńczuk's admirer, Ewa Białek, functions as the official website for Kobryńczuk's poems for children.

Source:

Materials kindly provided by the Author.

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Additional information

Summary

When Adonis becomes an orphan, Aphrodite becomes his guardian and soon begins to love him. The goddess comes up with the idea that the beautiful boy, to avoid catching a cold, should go down to Hades with Persephone for the winter. When Persephone emerges from the Underworld in the spring, it turns out that she has also fallen in love with Adonis and does not want to give him to Aphrodite. Zeus settles the dispute: Adonis will spend one-third of the year with Aphrodite, one-third – with Persephone, and the last part – alone, resting away from the two goddesses. However, it soon turns out that Artemis, too, has fallen in love with Adonis and is jealous of him. One morning, she sends a boar at the boy, which mortally wounds him. A flower grows from his blood and dead body – a red anemone that is always reborn in the spring, just as Adonis was to return from Persephone to Aphrodite. (White roses also grew where the boy died. When Aphrodite tried to run to his aid, she injured her foot against one of them, dyeing the flowers red – which is why the red rose becomes a symbol of love.)

Analysis

Using the metamorphosis motif, the poem explains the relationship between Aphrodite, the goddess of love, and the various flowers with which she was associated in ancient Greece. Importantly, Adonis' perspective is not shown in this piece; three female goddesses are designated as acting figures, and their decisions (and partly Zeus') determine the boy's fate. Therefore, Franciszek Kobryńczuk allocates specific stanzas to successive goddesses. At the end of the poem, there is an encouragement to give somebody red roses – symbols of love – if one is sure of the feeling. Interestingly, the poem forms a 'floral triptych' with two other pieces dedicated to Hyacinth and Narcissus.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Adonis Aphrodite Artemis Hades Metamorphosis Persephone

Emotions Nature Relationships Violence

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Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture

Further Reading

Nosek, Anna, *W przestrzeniach universum i regio. Wiersze dla dzieci współczesnych pisarzy regionu podlaskiego – interpretacje* [In the Spaces of universum and regio: Poems for Children by Contemporary Writers of the Podlasie Region – Interpretations], Białystok: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu w Białymstoku, 2015.

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