

The female universe in Giovanni Boccaccio's works

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Abstract

This article aims to address the importance of the works of Giovanni Boccaccio as they can be considered as the first attempt in the history of literature to attach importance to the role of women.

The article begins with a brief description of the social context where women, submissive to men and excluded from education and culture, are transformed by Boccaccio into the undisputed protagonists of his novellas. The innovations that Boccaccio's work brings compared to other writers of that period will then be analyzed. The study ends with an analysis of some of the female characters of Decameron, the most famous work of this writer that gives special value to the female figure. It is specifically through this work that the woman gains dignity as a character, no longer dependent on man but is independent and unafraid to express her feelings. The Tuscan poet, in addition to revolutionizing the idea of woman, also overturns the hitherto concept of love, paving the way for secular love in all its nuances, which will be reflected in the multiple personalities of Boccaccio's female characters. Through his works, Boccaccio aims to provide them with role models, instructions on how to eliminate melancholy and peacefully enjoy the pleasures of life.

Keywords: female characters, concept of love, medieval court culture, introspective novel, innovation.

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