

SUMMARY

ABSTRACT

This PhD Thesis presents a new scientific approach to Evil. Throughout Middle Ages, society's view of the world was based upon a dichotomy either religious or a philosophical: Good against Evil, God *versus* Satan. The literary representation of Devil in the Spanish medieval context will be analyzed in depth in this investigation.

BACKGROUNDS

Writing a brand new essay is getting more and more difficult owing to the great amount of research published today. Devil was studied by the first authors and it has always been an interesting subject both for writers and for Spanish society as a whole. Notwithstanding this, its perception has not constantly been the same.

Satan has usually been interpreted from a theological or philosophical perspective. Although several investigations have also carried out its anthropological aspects, there is not a mayor work in which literary representation plays an important role, chiefly if interest is focused on the Spanish tradition.

There are several papers whose main ideas insist on the literary aspects of Evil, but those orientations are not general and cannot be taken for definitive. They only suggest a specific approach to the subject and are usually concerned with a single book or a medieval author.

That is why this PhD Thesis contributes a new viewpoint on the aforementioned topic. In it Evil is faced from literary perception and the guidelines of its representation in the Spanish context are drawn.

METHODOLOGY

Firstly, the medieval literary corpus to be analyzed was settled. A decision was made to include the most essential titles, even though some important writers had to be rejected. Selection was hard because every genre and every type of representation (obviously always having to do with Spanish literature) must be taken on.

Secondly every single allusion to Evil was transcribed, taking into account even those elements that at first could not be considered to be relevant for the investigation. Thanks to this in-depth work, I can now assure that in order to draw my conclusions all the aspects have been well thought out.

This material, therefore, was studied in detail and separated into five different chapters:

- Women
- Love
- Jews and Muslims
- Seven Deadly Sins
- Devil metamorphosis

The research was obviously carried out with the basic support of a methodology. Although I was influenced by many current theories, the most significant fields of research were comparative literature and literary anthropology. Thanks to these guidelines I can assure that this PhD Thesis represents an innovative research in the field of Hispanic Philology.

CONCLUSIONS

The main conclusion to be drawn is that Devil played a real role in the Spanish Medieval literature. Nevertheless, Evil had different masks, as for example women, Love, Jews, Muslims or Saints. Each of these disguises was completely assumed by society that devoted its artistic representations of Satan (with “artistic” we mean in art or in literature) to those interesting earthly Devil agents.