

Diploma thesis

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## **Transformation and Adaptation of the Cupid and Psyche Myth in Literature**

### **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the myth of Cupid and Psyche. It is concerned with the version of the myth found in Apuleius's novel *The Golden Ass* as well as in other works such as fairy tales and novels. Some of these other works refer to the myth directly while others' connections to it have not been established and they merely demonstrate similar motifs. The first part of the thesis deals with Apuleius and his text *The Golden Ass*, which is the oldest surviving version of the myth of Amor and Psyche. The main characteristics of the myth as well as its characters, the story and the meanings that are hidden in it are examined. The character of Psyche and the way her heroism manifests itself are examined in greater detail. The second part of the thesis compares the myth with three fairy tales and three novels based on the conclusions of the previous chapter. The greatest emphasis is placed on the development and adaptation of individual motifs, similarities and dissimilarities in content and form and on the way in which the myth is reflected in literature. The third part of the thesis looks at three possible ways of interpreting the myth.

**Keywords:** Cupid, Psyche, myth, fairy tale, motif of light and enlightenment, motif of curiosity, female heroine, Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*, psychoanalysis.