



LES DEUX UNIVERS

DE MAURIAC

Une étude des rapports qui existent  
entre l'homme et le monde physique  
dans les romans de François Mauriac.

Presented by Ilkka Sakari Aaltonen,  
B.A.(Hons.), Dip.Ed.  
for the degree of Master of Arts,  
in the Department of French,  
at the University of Adelaide.

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SUMMARY"The Two Worlds of Mauriac"

This study is concerned with the relationships that exist in the novels of François Mauriac between human drama and the physical setting, including the natural and the man-made environment. In the Introduction the prominence in the works of these two apparently distinct elements is brought out, and the question is posed as to what links can be found to exist between them. The relationships that are sought in the thesis are of three types. Firstly, there is the dramatic one, the influence of the physical world on the plot of the novel. The second relationship is psychological — the influence of the outside world on the inward condition of the characters, and, conversely, the way in which the surroundings that an individual seeks serve as an outward expression of his personality and psychological state. Thirdly, symbolic connections between the visible world and human reality are considered, i.e. instances where one can draw significant analogies between what is happening in the life of the characters and what is occurring around them.

Using this approach, an analysis is made in the first chapter of man's relationship with the cosmic universe — darkness and light, night and day, weather and seasons. In the second chapter the examination focuses on the relationship between Mauriac's characters and the realm of nature, both in its vegetal and animal forms. In the third chapter a study is made of the

theme of territory and the territorial instinct which is clearly displayed by many characters. This takes the form of a passion for property or a strong affection for and affinity with one's physical abode.

In the fourth chapter a slightly different approach is adopted. Here the connection between the structure of the novels and variations in geographic setting is examined, and it is found that there is in many cases a correspondence between physical movement from one locality to another and changes in the inward state of individual characters.

The conclusion is drawn that there exists a very real unity between the human and the physical aspects of the novels. On the dramatic level, it appears that the physical environment serves in many works as an instrument of destiny, predestination being a concept to which allusion is often made in studies of Mauriac. The psychological and symbolic levels of the relationship bring out not only man's dependence on the physical realm but also the patently animal nature of his relationship with it. By this means Mauriac, in the tradition of Jansenist Christianity with which he is often linked, reinforces the implicit philosophical message that can be deduced from his works, i.e. That man is essentially a weak and fallen creature who can only be redeemed by Divine Grace.

STATEMENT

I, the undersigned, certify that this thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by any other person, except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

I.S. Aaltonen.

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I.S.Aaltonen.

AVANT-PROPOS

Le lecteur de cette thèse observera que quelques-unes des conclusions de l'étude ont déjà été notées par d'autres commentateurs. Le plus souvent, ces conclusions ont été, pourtant, des affirmations sans preuves. Nulle part dans la critique mauriacienne je n'ai trouvé d'analyse systématique et cohérente du rapport entre l'univers physique et le drame humain qui pourrait établir l'exactitude de ces attestations. Voilà ce que j'essaie de fournir dans cet ouvrage.

I.S.Aaltonen.

NOTE

Les sigles employés pour indiquer les œuvres romanesques de Mauriac citées dans cette thèse sont les suivants:-

AA	Un Adolescent d'autrefois
AN	Les Anges noirs
BL	Le Baiser au lépreux
CM	Les Chemins de la mer
CP	Ce qui était perdu
CS	La Chair et le sang
D	Destins
DA	Le Désert de l'amour
EC	L'Enfant chargé de chaînes
FF	Le Fleuve de feu
G	Genitrix
GI	Galigaf
LA	L'Agneau
LM	Le Mal
LP	La Pharisienne
LS	Le Sagouin
MF	Le Mystère Frontenac
NV	Le Nœud de vipères
P	Préséances
PS	Plongées
RP	La Robe Prétexte
TD	Thérèse Desqueyroux
TCD	Thérèse chez le docteur
TH	Thérèse à l'hôtel
TR	Trois récits