

WLC Capstone

Greek Mythology in Latin American Literature: An analysis on the poetry of

Rubén Darío.

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Agenda

I. Questions of Investigation:

1. What Figures of Greek Mythology were used by Ruben Dario ?
2. What is the function does Greek Mythology play in these poems?
3. How does each poem represent the modernist movement?

II: Literary Review

- A. The Life of Ruben Dario
- B. Modernism
- C. Greek Mythology

III. Analysis

IV. Conclusion

V. Bibliography

Investigation Questions

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<https://dxnews.com/forum/forum/special-event-stations/6169-h79h-ruben-dario-san-carlos-nicaragua>

The Life of Rubén Darío



He was born in the City of Dario, Nicaragua on January 18, 1867

He died in Leon, Nicaragua on February 6, 1916

<https://bitsystage.com/facts-about-nicaragua>

La vida en Hispanoamérica y Europa

1. Between the cities of León, Managua y Granada en Nicaragua
2. He Lived in EL Salvador
3. Santiago y Valparaíso en Chile
4. Guatemala
5. Madrid, España
6. Havana, Cuba
7. Paris, Frances

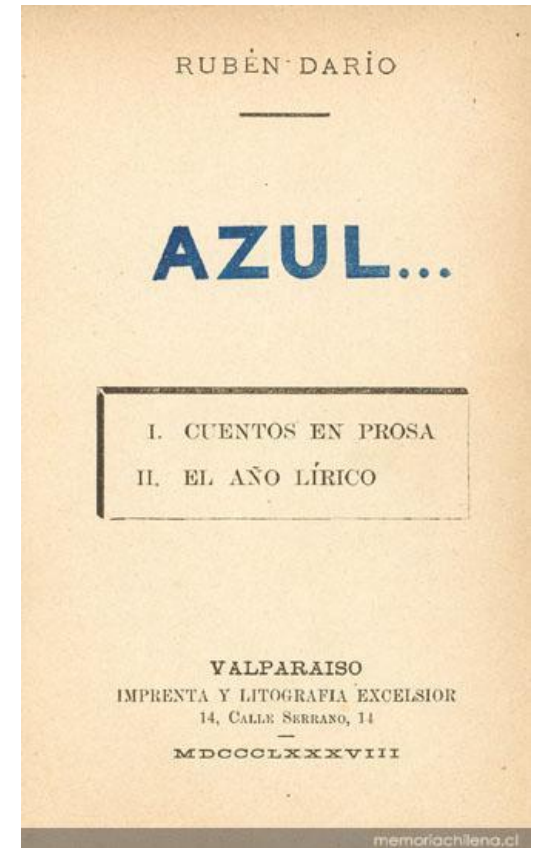


1. At the age of 12 he published his first poetry
2. Francisco Gavidia had introduced French literature in 1882
3. He published poetry books including *Azul(1888)* for the Newspaper *La Época*
4. He had his first child with Rafaela Contreras in 1890
5. He became a leader of the Modernistas in 1892
6. The encounter with Julian de Casal
7. He learned symbolism and published *Canta de Vida y Esperanza(1905)*

The Modernist movement

“El arte por el arte”

- ❖ End of XIX century - XX
- ❖ Rubén Darío is the face of modernism and *Azul* is marked as the beginning of the movement.
- ❖ “L’arte c’est l’azur” -Victor Hugo
- ❖ Eclectic lyric.
- ❖ Objection of the Realist and Naturalist movements.



<https://50latamobjects.wordpress.com/2013/04/10/azul-by-ruben-dario-2/>

Elements of Modernism

The elements are from previous movements.

1. Romanticism- “Intimacy and sonority of verse.”
2. Parnassianism- “Informal poetry, objetiva, dedicated to almost exclusively emphasizing the way...”
3. Symbolism- “the elements of vagueness, color, musicality, rhythm and free verse”

Virgillo, Carmelo, et al. *Aproximaciones Al Estudio De La Literatura hispánica*. McGraw-Hill, 2012.

Masterpieces and other Modernist authors

Poetry Books By Darío:

Azul(1888)

Prosas Profanas(1893)

Cantos de Vida y Esperanza(1905)

El Canto errante(1907)

Poema del otoño(1908)

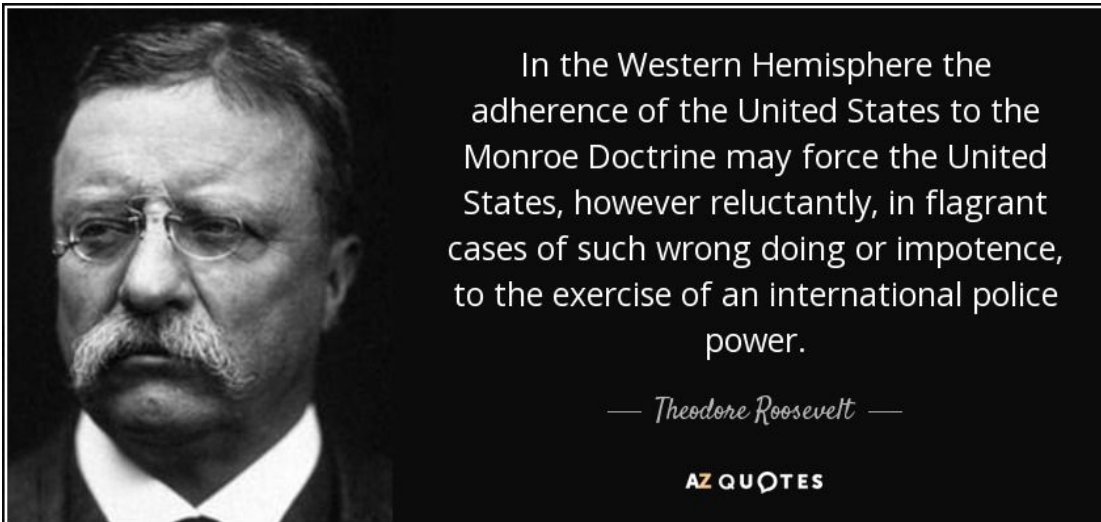
Other modernists authors analyzed:

Julián del Casal “Prometeo”

José Lezama Lima “La Muerte de Narciso”

'A Roosevelt' during Modernism

You combine the worship of Hercules with the worship of Mammon; and, lighting the path of easy conquest, Liberty raises her torch in New York



<https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/monroe-doctrine.html>

Panama Canal

- Roosevelt supports revolution in Colombia to create Panama Canal
- Connects Atlantic and Pacific Oceans



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOU8XpaM1qk>

“Ivory Tower”

Greek Mythology

Greek mythology, as in other ancient cultures, was used as a means to explain the environment in which humankind lived, the natural phenomena they witnessed and the passing of time through the days, months, and seasons. Myths were also intricately connected to **religion** in the **Greek** world and explained the origin and lives of the gods, where humanity had come from and where it was going after **death**, and gave advice on the best way to lead a happy life. Finally, myths were used to re-tell historical events so that people could maintain contact with their ancestors, the wars they fought, and the places they explored. (ancient.eu)



<https://owlcation.com/humanities/top-10-greekmyths>

Figures of Greek Mythology (from analyzed poems)

Zeus-God of the sky and thunder, King of Greek Gods. Fathered many children.

Leda-Wife of King Tyndareus. Daughter of King of Aetolia, King Thestius, making her a princess.

Helen-Considered the most beautiful women. Was the result of the violation of Leda by Zeus

Pegasus-Immortal horse with wings and the ability to fly.

Bellerophon-Mortal hero with many impressive victories.

Apollo-God of poetry, art, archery, plagues, sun, light, knowledge and music.

The Sirenas-Creature which was half beautiful women and half bird with a singing voice capable of luring men to their demise.

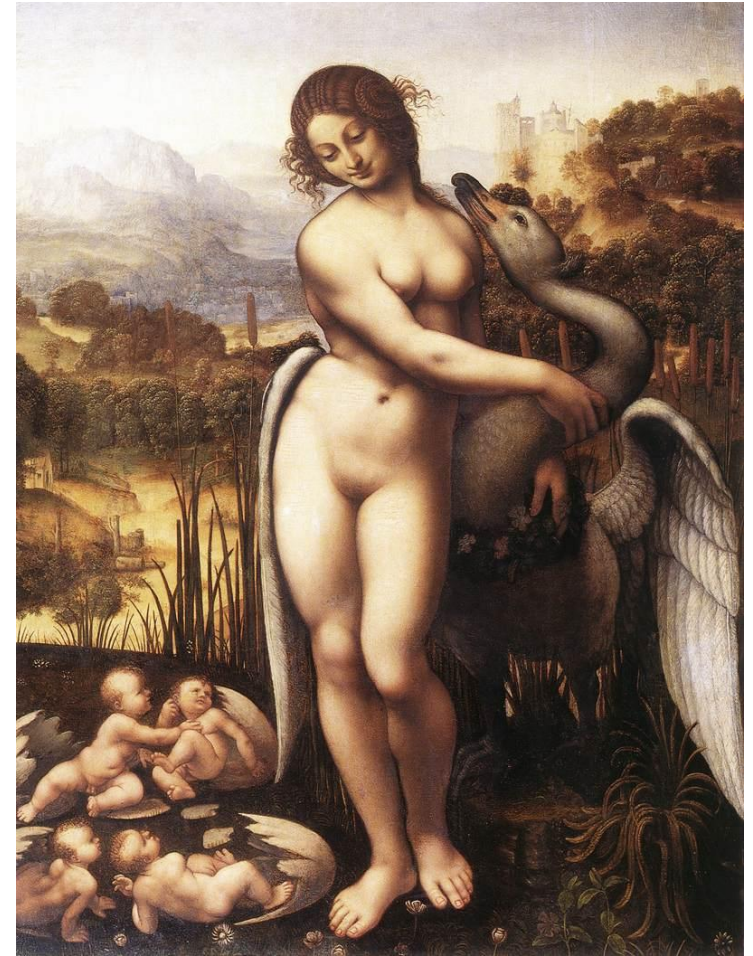
“El Cisne”

Theme: The positive changes in Latin American literature which came from the Modernist movement.

Symbols:

Swan-Representation of Zeus.

Helen-Representation of the movement.



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3d/Leda_and_the_Swan_1505-1510.jpg

Function

In “El Cisne” the function of the Greek figures is to help in the conveyance of the theme.

Darío chose the figures specifically; Zeus, for his known role as a leader, and Helen, because she was his daughter and for her beauty.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_of_Troy#/media/File:Helen_Moreau.jpg

Analysis of “Blason”

“Blason”(Fleur-de-Lis and coat of arms) from the book *Prosas Profanas*

- Contact between Zeus and Leda(or the countess)



<https://www.agefotostock.com/age/en/Stock-Images/Low-Budget-Royalty-Free/ESY-017568256>



<http://christopherjorden.blogspot.com/2012/11/quizhou-zhenfeng-two-breast-peaks.html>

“El Blason”

- The goose is the personification of a handsome man and a symbol of Zeus. In this poem the earth is fertile and it represents the loneliness of women, known as the countess.
- The scene between Zeus and Leda or the widow, demonstrates making love.

“The gold gondola” and the goose's neck



https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM4_YHH_Margruss_Pacific_Grove_California



<https://www.pinterest.ru/pin/8162843059445825/>

“¡Torres de Dios! ¡Poetas!”

Theme: The resistance against writing traditional poetry.

Symbols:

Tower of Gods-Representation of modernists poets.

The Sirena-Representation of the temptation of writing traditional poetry.



<http://renapatterson.blogspot.com/2012/02/sirens-in-greek-mythology.html>

Function

The function of the mythological figures in “¡Torres de Dios! ¡Poetas!” is to help in the conveyance of the theme.

Darío chose the figures specifically; the gods for their prestige and the sirenas for their voice.



<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/a-gathering-of-the-gods-in-the-clouds-cornelis-van-poelenburgh.html>

“Pegaso”

Theme: The aspiration in the journey of life towards better.

Symbols:

Pegasus-Representation of the mode of transportation in the journey.

Bellerophon-Representation of the literary battles won by Darío.

Apollo-Representation of the light on the journey which guided Darío.



<https://www.greeklegendsandmyths.com/bellerophon.html>

Function

In “Pegaso” Darío used the figures of Greek Mythology to transmute his theme.

Darío specifically chose Pegasus and Bellerophon for their myths and Apollo for being known as a god.



<https://www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends-europe/apollo-god-0012980>

Conclusion

In conclusion, after analyzing the poem and investigation the figures of Greek Mythology, we found Dario used powerful figures specifically to convey his message. Furthermore, we found that each poem analyzed incorporated elements from each of the three movements which comprise the Modernist movement.

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