

Title: Intertextual Representations of Longing and Temptation

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The themes of longing and temptation are relevant to every human and are interwoven with all fundamental ideals and values of the created, rational being. The succession of books in the Bible is itself an emphasis of the fact that humans were faced with temptation immediately after creation. This biblical typology of the woman who succumbs to a wrongful longing and then, disappointed and in a state of crisis, discovers the true object of her longing, reveals the duality in the nature of the longing woman. This paper is a summary of a study which compares and contrasts Slovenian and European literary works created under the influence of biblical source texts (Adam and Eve, Joseph from Egypt, Samson and Dahlia, etc.) and the works of other known and unknown origins (Homer's *Iliad* VI, 152-170, various versions of the myth of the "Lovely Vida" – in Slovene "Lepa Vida", etc.). There is greater interest in the influence of biblical texts upon the writers who deal with the themes of longing and temptation in the works of various genres. The Quranic story of Joseph of Egypt (Sura 12) is an allegory explaining the seeming contradictions in life as a general phenomenon of human beings, illustrative especially in the Courtier's wife that tried and failed to seduce Joseph. The modern novel *Joseph and His Brothers* by Thomas Mann reinterprets the biblical story about the Potiphar's wife's attempt to seduce Joseph. As a myth of its own time, it reaches to deeper levels of symbolism to restore a belief in the power of humane reason. On the other hand, at the heart of the romantic ballad "Lepa Vida" (Fair Vida) by France Prešeren are a series of charmingly simple events, which are clearly connected to each other; the tragic figure of Lovely Vida, lured by a Moor, is portrayed in the development of her spiritual state and in her spiritual conflict; the poem concludes with the motif of Vida's inconsolable tears at the Spanish court, with her powerless longing for home. Cankar's drama on "Fair Vida" ends differently; it symbolizes the fact that humans are not only bound to temptation by that which is earthly, transitory, but they also have longing for what is beyond the senses, eternal.

The ascribing of a text to a genre provides the interpreter of the text with a key intertextual framework, with relations within the text in terms of its internal configuration and its autonomous form, and with a system of references to other books, other texts, other literary statements. The intertextual approach is obviously appropriate to the study of contents, symbols and forms expressing the experience of human longing and temptation. Source texts, like residual literary traditions of the ancient Near Eastern civilizations, biblical books, Greek literary works or later literary representations, are in most cases not a coherent whole, but read as a series of independent units written at different times but with a common general purpose.