This paper will focus upon ways in which Fedor Sologub integrates traditional imagery of the diabolic and its symbolic meanings into the text of *The Petty Demon*. Until the publication of this novel, in Russian Literature there had been two main styles of representing the demonic. The focus of the first was upon the base and vile minions of Satan, Hell’s demons (*besy*). For the most part, these portrayals were written in a comic and fantastical vein. Works by Pushkin and Gogol may be included among them. The second style depicted tragically compelling, almost majestic figures in a realistic way, like those of Satan in Lermontov’s “The Demon” and Dostoevskij’s Stavrogin in *Besy*. It is clear Peredonov contains some elements from both of these traditions.

The various literary and folkloric sources of what characterizes demonic qualities in a literary character, which were undoubtedly available to Sologub will be discussed. Finally, there will be an illustration of how the *Petty Demon*’s author integrates these demonic traits into his descriptions of Peredonov and others. Finally, interpretations of the deeper meanings of the demonic symbolism permeating all aspects of the novel will be offered.

Bibliography


