**THE FOREST POOL**

**By Mihai Eminescu**

*Spoiala Teodora*

The Forest Pool

Upon the forest pool's deep blue

Golden petalled lilies float:

Circling silver ripples play

Around an ancient rowing-boat.

I pass along the sloping bank,

I pause to listen, lost in dreams;

I see "Her" rise among the reeds,

She stretches out her arms it seems.

And hard-in-hand we leap aboard,

Charmed by the water's tiny childe;

The rudder strings slip from my grasp,

The oars into the water slide.

To float away wrapped in love

Beneath the kindly summer moon,

While midst the rushes breathes the wind

And endlessly the ripples croon.

But it is dream, she does not come,

And vainly do I moan and weep

Beside the dark blue forest pool

On which gold-petalled lilies sleep.

As many romantic writings have seen, nature is one major point to take into consideration when choosing inspiration, not only for its vastness, but also for the feelings that are conferred.

One Romanian complex writer is Mihai Eminescu, the poet in which we take much pride even after it has passed more than a century and half since his death. Surnamed „The National Poet”, he managed to compose over 270 poems during the 39 years of his lifetime, poems full of wisdom( „The First Letter”), love („Blue Flower”), nature („Murmur of the Forest”) and sometimes fusions between all the above ( „Evening Star”). Above all these, his specialty remained the idyl, as we see in the poem „The Forest Pool”.

Written and published in 1876 in one of the greatest literary magazines of the time, the poem „The forest pool”, or simply „The Lake” is considered a pastel and at the same time an idyl, harmonizing the love for the dear one and the admiration for the natural beauties.

The title represents the key to interpreting a text, as Umberto Eco said. Therefore, the simple usage of the common noun „lake” is a hint that there shall be made room for descriptions of emotions, states of mind and feelings of admiration for nature, the latter’s main component being „the forest pool’s deep blue upon which golden petalled lilies float”. In the lake, there is reflected the ever moon and can be noticed the „circling silver ripples play around an ancient rowing-boat”, constituting the components of the image in which the poet imagines to meet with the loved one, personifying the lake. Another reason why the poem is entitled this way may be because the lake rules the landscape comparing to other elements such as the moon, mountains, woods, wind...

The artistic language is very well brought to light by the description, through which there is presented a landscape as a possible meeting place for two lovers, a terrestrial paradise that can facilitate the Adamic couple. Therefore, the woods and the lake symbolize immortality, witnessers which involve affectively, shivering in the kind wind and living the same emotions as the young lovers. This is why the poet refers to the lake as to a dear and trustworthy friend when daring his lover to dive into the water(„And hard in hand we leap aboard, charmed by the waters tiny childe; the rudder strings slip from my grasp, the oars into the water slide”).

The description also refers to the blue water of the lake, which „circles silver ripples play”. This color suggests purity, maybe even the purity of the beginning of times. By the sensitivity and intimacy presented, the shallow-watered floating boat can anticipate the things that are to happen next, especially accompanied by the most romantic part of the day („to float away wrapped in love beneath the kindly summer moon”).

But as everything has to come to an end, in the final part the poet confesses his feelings of sadness and loneliness caused by the rejection received from the loved one and at realising that it all has been nothing but a chimera, a product of his of his own soaked-in-love imagination („ But it is a dream, she does not come, and vainly do I moan and weep beside the dark blue forest pool on which gold-petal led lilies sleep”).

To put everything in a nutshell, the poem „The Forest Pool” written by The National Poet Mihai Eminescu is a brilliantly conceived love story which ends sadly and revolves around a shallow lake in the brains of a woods, representing the perfect landscape for an ideal love story.