

The depiction of a transcendent home in work of Jan Čep

Catholic literature. Philosophical reflection. Phenomenological approach. Meditative lyrism. Transcendent experience. Mysticism.

The Czech writer, essayist and translator Jan Čep (1902–1974), whose work displays his Catholic orientation, is considered to be one of the most original and thoughtful Czech Christian thinkers. This interpretation of selected works by Čep aims to build on existing research, to deepen the views of his artistic language and imagery, and to analyse the means of expression created by the author's philosophical-reflexive and meditative lyrism, often alluding to a contemplative position. In a special way, the metaphysical image of the dual home (first home as a temporary dwelling for earthly existence, which is the image and parable of the second – permanent – home in heaven) emerges from the poetics constituted in this way (based on both artistic and spiritual vision of the world), which thematically reads from Čep's transcendent experience. In this analysis, the phenomenological view appears to be an adequate methodological approach alongside literary interpretation.

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