



THE IMAGERY OF SATAN

Dienifer Feijó Vieira, discente de Letras, Línguas Adicionais, Universidade Federal do Pampa, Campus Bagé
Fabiane Lazzaris, docente, Universidade Federal do Pampa

dieniferfvieira.aluno@unipampa.edu.br
fabianelazzaris@unipampa.edu.br

In the Holy Bible, the shining one, completely beautiful angel named Lucifer rebelled against God and was cast out of paradise. He became Satan, the serpent or red dragon, as it is depicted in the Christian sacred book. However, the collectively shared imagery of Satan is of a red demon carrying a pitchfork with animal attributions, as with goat horns, wings, hooves a tail, sometimes a half-goat creature. But where does such internalized imagery come from, considering those traits were never mentioned in the Holy Bible? Trying to clarify this enigma is the main objective of this research, in the light of facts and evidences, getting down the layers of each detail, symbol and characteristic attributed to Satan and in opposition to any kind of fanaticism. Because Satan's imagery is a reaction of its historical context, for the methodology the first relevant artworks known from the medieval era and its historical context are analyzed, providing biblical references when necessary. The pattern of relationship between art, historical context, religious beliefs and creeds, philosophy and sociology formulates a system, referring to coherence rather than randomness. Therefore, this research is based on the polysystem theory of investigation, also for considering Satan as an imagery, not the entity itself. As a result, evil was felt all the time in the historical context when the first Satan's imageries art pieces were made. Such disgraces and extreme difficulties civilizations went through back then, helped to create a strong allegory around the imagery of the antichrist. The medieval artworks analyzed depict Satan with a horrendous aspect, with horns, fur, beard and more traits borrowed from the gods of the ancient world. Thus, we can conclude that Christianity used the known ancient pagan gods imagery to finally depict the convenient model for Satan, helping demonize the gods of the ancient religions it was pretty much in competition with, also converting people to their cause.

Keywords: Satan; Imaginary; Christianity; Medieval ages; Paganism;