



“Body for Soul”

Tristan Corbière’s foreign body

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Cahiers Tristan Corbière](#)
[2022, n° 5. Relations](#)

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Abstract: In this article the author explores the mind/body connexion in the work of Corbières, through the relationship between the notions of identity and difference, of the same and the other. The central hypothesis of the present paper holds that in Corbière’s poetry the body always constitutes an obstacle to the unification of, appropriation of, or reunion with the self. The body is indeed perceived here as that which is foreign to oneself even within oneself. Corbières never misses an opportunity to do exactly that in order to better stage, belittle and ridicule it. The soul, on the other hand, is seen as the force that allows me to belong to myself, to hold myself together in spite of the constant fragmentation of the matter. Corbières’ poetry is above all engaged in an existential debate with the Christian possibility of the resurrection of the body, that is to say of the salvation of the body; a body taken back, appropriated and integrated in the identity of a person at peace with its materiality. One’s very own body, at last.

Pages: 129 to 141

Journal: [Tristan Corbière Studies](#)

CLIL theme: 4027 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage --

Lettres -- Etudes littéraires générales et thématiques

EAN: 9782406164937

ISBN: 978-2-406-16493-7

ISSN: 2608-5895

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-16493-7.p.0129

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 02-21-2024

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: body, soul, self-appropriation, spirit, matter, resurrection

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