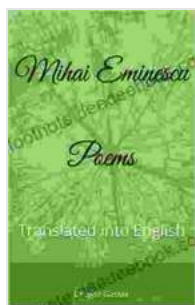


Mihai Eminescu's Poems: A Journey Through the Depths of Human Emotion, Nature, and Romanian Folklore

Mihai Eminescu, the national poet of Romania, stands as a literary titan whose words have captivated generations. Born in 1850, Eminescu's poetry is a symphony of love, melancholy, and the echoes of Romanian folklore, painting a vivid tapestry of the human experience.

In recent years, there has been a surge of interest in translating Eminescu's works into English, allowing audiences worldwide to appreciate the depth and beauty of his verses. These translations have breathed new life into his poetry, making it accessible to a broader readership and sparking fresh interpretations.



Mihai Eminescu - Poems: Translated into English

by Dragos Gasser

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Love and Melancholy: The Heart's Eternal Dance



Love and melancholy are inseparable companions in Eminescu's poetry. His verses capture the ecstasy and despair of the human heart, painting a bittersweet portrait of the human condition. In "If I Could Plant a Flower in Your Hair," he yearns for a love that transcends time and mortality:

“

“If I could plant a flower in your hair, A flower that endures forever young, I'd plant a lotus flower there, A lotus flower, white and delicately strung.”

Yet, alongside this yearning for eternal love, there is a profound sense of melancholy. In "Evening Star," he reflects on the fleeting nature of time and the loss that inevitably accompanies it:



“Evening star, you shine so clear, But your light brings only sorrow, For it reminds me of the dear One who's gone and will not borrow.”

Nature's Embrace: The Poetry of the Romanian Landscape

Luceafărul

(1-20)

A fost odată ca-n povești,
A fost ca niciodată,
Din rude mari împărătești,
O prea frumoasă fată,

Și era una la părinți,
Și mândră-n toate cele,
Cum e Feodora între sfinți,
Și luna între stele.

Din umbra falnicelor bolti
Ea pasul și-l îndreaptă
Lângă fereastră, unde-n cânt
Luceafărul așteaptă.

Privea în zare cum pe mări
Bășare și străluce,
Pe mișcătoarele cărări
Corăbii negre duce.

Îl vede azi, îl vede mâni,
Astfel dorința-i gata,
El iar, privind de săptamâni,
Îl cade dragă fată.

Cum ea pe coate și răzima
Visând ale-ei tample
De dorul lui și inima
Și sufletu-i se împle.

Și cât de viu s-aprinde el
În orișicare sără,
Spre umbra negrului castel
Când ea o să-l apară.

Și pas cu pas pe urma ei
Alunecă-n odaie,
Țesând cu răcile-i scântei
O mireasă de vapăie.

Și când în pat se întinde drept
Copila să se culce,
I-atinge mâinile pe piept,
Închide geana dulce:

Și din oglindă luminis
Pe trupu-i se revarsă,
Pe ochii mari, bătrând închiși
Pe fața ei întoarsă.

Ea îl privea cu un surâs
El tremura-n oglindă,
Căci o urma adânc în vis
De suflet să se prindă.

Iar ea vorbind cu el în somn,
Oftând din greu suspină
„O, dulce-al nopții mele domn,
De ce nu vii tu? Vină!

Cobori în jos, luceafăr blând,
Alunetând pe-o rază,
Rătăcind-n casă și în gând
Și viața-mi luminează!”

El asculta tremurător:
Se aprindea mai tare
Și s-aranca fulgerător
Se cufunda în mare.

Și apa unde-au fost căzut
În cercuri se rotește,
Și din adânc necunoscut
Un mândru tânăr crește.

Ușor el trece ca pe prag
Pe marginea ferestei
Și ține-n mână un toiag
Încununat cu trestii.

Părea un tânăr voevod
Cu păr de aur moale,
Un vânător giuigi se-ncheie nod
Pe umerele goale.

Iar umbra fetei strălucii
E aiba ca de ceață -
Un mort frumos cu ochii vii
Ce scanteie-n afară.

„Din sfera mea venii cu greu
Ca să-ți urmez chemarea,
Iar cerul este tatăl meu
Și mama-mea e marea.

Ca în cămara ta să vin,
Să te privesc de aproape,
Am coborât cu-al meu senin
Și m-am născut din ape.



de la Oana...

Mihai Eminescu

Eminescu's poetry is deeply rooted in the Romanian landscape, infused with the scents, sounds, and colors of his homeland. He celebrates the beauty of nature, using vivid imagery to paint breathtaking scenes.

In "The Linden Tree," he captures the essence of the Romanian countryside, with its whispering leaves and the gentle hum of bees:



“The linden tree, the linden tree, Its leaves are whispering to me, And the bees are humming low, In the golden sunlight's glow.”

Eminescu's nature poems often evoke a sense of nostalgia and longing, as he yearns for a simpler, more idyllic past.

Echoes of Romanian Folklore: The Soul of a Nation



Romanian folklore and mythology are woven into the fabric of Eminescu's poetry. He draws inspiration from ancient legends, fairy tales, and the rich oral traditions of his people.

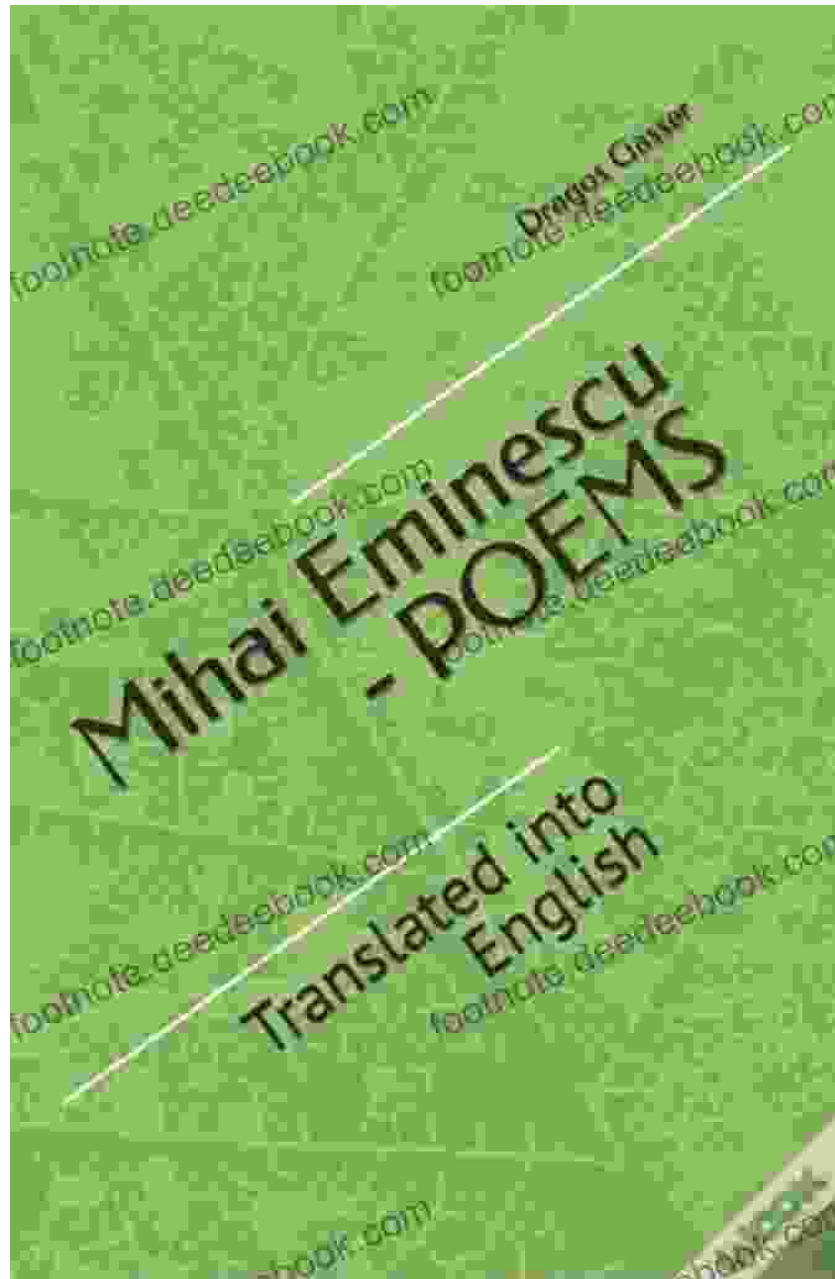
In "The Ballad of Master Manole," he retells the tale of a master builder who sacrifices his beloved to complete a magnificent church:



“Master Manole, master builder, Built a church so high, But the walls fell down around him, As they reached for the sky.”

Through these folkloric elements, Eminescu explores themes of love, sacrifice, and the human quest for immortality.

The Art of Translation: Capturing the Essence of Eminescu



Translating Eminescu's poetry into English is a complex and demanding task. It requires not only a deep understanding of the Romanian language but also a keen appreciation for the poet's unique style and voice.

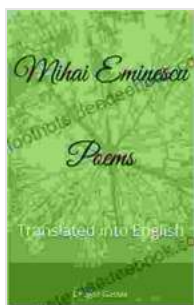
Successful translations strive to capture the essence of Eminescu's verses, preserving the emotional depth, the use of literary devices, and the rhythmic flow that characterize his work. While some translations may

prioritize faithfulness to the original text, others may opt for a more creative approach, seeking to evoke the spirit of Eminescu's poetry in a way that resonates with English-speaking readers.

Mihai Eminescu's poems are a testament to the power of language to capture the complexities of the human experience. Through his exploration of love, melancholy, nature, and Romanian folklore, he has created a timeless body of work that continues to inspire and enchant readers worldwide.

The recent surge in translations of Eminescu's poetry has opened up his verses to a new audience, allowing them to appreciate the depth and beauty of his work. These translations serve as a bridge between cultures, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Romanian literature.

As we delve into the world of Mihai Eminescu's poetry, we are transported to a realm of raw emotions, breathtaking landscapes, and the echoes of ancient traditions. His verses offer a profound insight into the human condition, reminding us of the timeless truths that unite us all.



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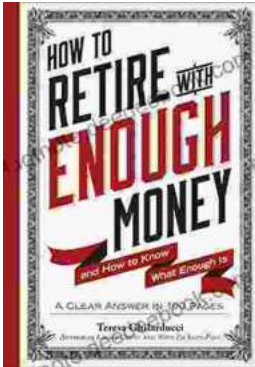
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