Maciej Skowera, "Entry on: Narcissus [Narcyz] by Franciszek Kobryńczuk", peer-reviewed by Elżbieta Olechowska and Katarzyna Marciniak. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1560. Entry version as of November 01, 2026.

Franciszek Kobryńczuk

Narcissus [Narcyz]

Poland (2015)

TAGS: Echo Metamorphosis Narcissus Nemesis





We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Narcissus [Narcyz]
Country of the First Edition	Poland
Country/countries of popularity	Poland
Original Language	Polish
First Edition Date	2015
First Edition Details	Franciszek Kobryńczuk, "Narcyz", *Biuletyn Północno-Wschodniej Izby Lekarsko-Weterynaryjnej* [Bulletin of the North-Eastern Veterinary Chamber] 57.3 (2015): 99–100 (accessed: September 13, 2022).
ISBN	ISSN 2081-3708
Available Onllne	*Bulletin of the North-Eastern Veterinary Chamber* 57.3 (2015): 99–100 (accessed: December 6, 2022).
Genre	Narrative poetry, Poetry
Target Audience	Children
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This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Creators



Photograph courtesy of the Author.

Franciszek Kobryńczuk , 1929 - 2016
(Author)

A veterinarian, professor of veterinary sciences specializing in animal anatomy (an authority on the anatomy of the Polish bison), writer, and poet. 1948–1950: a member of a secret youth organization active within the post-WW2 underground connected to Armia Krajowa [Home Army], banned by the Communist regime; in 1950 he was sentenced to a 10-year prison term for this activity; fully exonerated after the fall of Communism. Graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW); from 1994 to 2000 Head of the Department of Animal Anatomy at the same University. Debuted as an author for children in 1958 with a short poem *Sowa* [Owl], published in children's magazine "Miś"; contributor to several other magazines for children and young adults, such as "Świerszczyk," "Płomyk," "Płomyczek," and "Mały Apostoł"; author of about 30 books for children, young adults and adults; a former member of the Polish Writers' Union; now his poems can be found most of all online. The page ewa.bicom.pl/wierszedzieci run by a Kobryńczuk's admirer, Ewa Białek, functions as the official website for Kobryńczuk's poems for children.

Source:

Materials kindly provided by the Author.

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Additional information

Summary	All of the nymphs are in love with Narcissus, a beautiful boy. Echo has a special affection for him. However, Narcissus does not pay any attention to her at all, making Echo go further into the forest, and her cries become quieter and quieter until they completely fade away. Narcisuss' sisters, to change the boy's approach to love, ask Nemesis, the goddess of retribution, for help. She leads Narcissus to a stream and asks him to wash in the water. Narcissus sees his reflection and falls in love with himself. He does not respond to the cries of his sisters and eventually dies, staring at his face, and on his grave grows a white flower – narcissus, named after him.
Analysis	The first part of the poem focuses on the relationship between Narcissus and the nymph Echo. In contrast, the second part focuses on the punishment for vanity inflicted on the boy by Nemesis. Unlike in many of Franciszek Kobryńczuk's poems about people turned into plants or animals by the gods, in this case, there is no shadow of sympathy for the young man's fate, showing it as a severe but just punishment. Interestingly, the poem forms a 'floral triptych' with two other pieces dedicated to Adonis and Hyacinth.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Echo Metamorphosis Narcissus Nemesis
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Emotions Nature Relationships Violence
Further Reading	Entry: "Narcissus (Narkissos)" on theoi.com (accessed September 13, 2022).

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Addenda

Narcissus is a plant genus name. Also, the mythological boy and his name inspired the name of narcissistic personality disorder (NPD).

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