

“Personal Myth” in Ernesto Sábato’s Novels¹

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Using Charles Mauron’s methodology called “psychocriticism”, this paper tries to expose Ernesto Sábato’s “personal myth”. His three novels, *The Tunnel* (*El túnel*, 1948), *On Heroes and Tombs* (*Sobre héroes y tumbas*, 1961) and *Abaddón the Exterminator* (English translation *The Angel of Darkness*, original *Abaddón, el Exterminador*, 1974), disclose, if their plots are superimposed, an archetypal triangle of characters. This personal diagram is formed by the figures of the neophyte (Castel, Martin, Sábato), of the “medusa” women (María, Alejandra, Soledad) and of the blind person (Iribarne, Fernando, Rojas). The neophyte is generally initiated by the “dragon-woman” into becoming a blind person. Losing one’s eyes and sight has been, since the Oedipus myth, correlated with incest. Behind Sábato’s obsession with blindness, there appears to be an oedipal conflict, namely the anxiety provoked by incestuous desires and castration fears. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2019 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

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Unlike his fellow writers belonging to the Latin American “Boom” of the ’60s³, Ernesto Sábato (1911 – 2010) was not a very prolific author. However, his three published novels, *The Tunnel* (*El túnel*, 1948), *On Heroes and Tombs* (*Sobre héroes y tumbas*, 1961) and *Abaddón the Exterminator* (translated into English as *The Angel of Darkness*, original

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³ See Volek, E. (2002). *Latin America writes back: Postmodernity in the periphery (an interdisciplinary perspective)*. New York: Routledge; Ricci Della Grisa, G. N. (1985). *Realismo mágico y conciencia mítica en América Latina. Textos y contextos*. Buenos Aires: F. García Cambeiro.