Bloom’s Literary Themes

THE TABOO

Edited and with an introduction by
Harold Bloom
Sterling Professor of the Humanities
Yale University

Volume Editor
Blake Hobby

BLOOM’S LITERARY CRITICISM
An imprint of Infobase Publishing
Contents

Series Introduction by Harold Bloom: Themes and Metaphors xi

Volume Introduction by Harold Bloom xv

Confessions of an English Opium Eater (Thomas De Quincey) 1
“Les Paradis Artificiels” by Charles Baudelaire, in Les Paradis Artificiels (1860)

Dracula (Bram Stoker) 23
“Suddenly Sexual Women in Bram Stoker’s Dracula” by Phyllis A. Roth, in Literature and Psychology (1977)

Howl (Allen Ginsberg) 37
“Transgression, Release, and ‘Moloch’” by Jeffrey Gray

Julius Caesar (William Shakespeare) 51

Lady Chatterley’s Lover (D.H. Lawrence) 77
“1925-30” by Frank Kermode, in D.H. Lawrence (1973)

Lolita (Vladimir Nabokov) 91
“I have only words to play with:’Taboo and Tradition in Nabokov’s Lolita” by Samuel Schuman
Lord of the Flies (William Golding) 99

“The Miller’s Tale” (Geoffrey Chaucer) 113
“Social and Religious Taboos in Chaucer’s The Miller’s Tale” by Robert C. Evans

“the mother” (Gwendolyn Brooks) 123
“The Taboo in Gwendolyn Brooks’ ‘the mother’” by Kate Falvey

Mourning Becomes Electra (Eugene O’Neill) 133
“I Forgive Myself!': Escaping the Ever-Present Past in Eugene O’Neill’s Mourning Becomes Electra” by Scott Walters

Oedipus Tyrannus (Sophocles) 143
“Chapter Nine” by Friedrich Nietzsche, in The Birth of Tragedy (1872)

The Picture of Dorian Gray (Oscar Wilde) 147
“Taboo in The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Arundhati Sanyal

The Poetry and Prose of Sylvia Plath 157
“God’s Lioness’—Sylvia Plath, Her Prose and Poetry” by Wendy Martin, in Women’s Studies (1973)

“A Rose for Emily” (William Faulkner) 165
“Usher, Poquelin, and Miss Emily: the Progress of Southern Gothic” by Edward Stone, in Georgia Review (1960)

Sabbath’s Theater (Philip Roth) 177
“The Taboo in Philip Roth’s Sabbath’s Theater” by Julia F. Klimek
Contents

**The Satanic Verses** (Salman Rushdie) 189
“Breaking Totems and Taboos: Rushdie’s *The Satanic Verses*” by Rossitsa Artemis

The Poetry of Anne Sexton 199

The Prose Works of Jonathan Swift 217
“Biographical Introduction” by W.E.H. Lecky, in *Swift’s Tale of a Tub and Other Early Works* (1897)

**Tess of the D’Urbervilles** (Thomas Hardy) 227

**Ulysses** (James Joyce) 251
“Fetishizing the Bread of Everyday Life: The Taboo Gaze in ‘Nausicaa’” by Blake Hobby and Dustin Ryan

Acknowledgments 259

Index 261