

ALINA SZYMCZYK
(Chicago, The United States of America)
e-mail: info[at]literaci.org

**[Rev.:] Maria Mili Purymska, *Na skrzydłach wiatru*,
Zagnańsk : Świętokrzyskie Towarzystwo Regionalne ;
Chicago : [s.n.] 2012, 103, VIII p.**

**[Maria Mili Purymska, *On the wings of the wind*,
Zagnańsk: the Świętokrzyskie Regional Association; Chi-
cago : [s.n.] 2012, 103, VIII p.]**

On December 7th 2012, at the Jesuit Millennium Center in Chicago there was a launch party of the book of poetry by Maria Mili Purymska *On the Wings of the Wind*. It was edited by dr Andrzej Maciej Zarębski at the Świętokrzyskie Regional Association as the 295-th position of the Świętokrzyska Library. This shows the cooperation between the Świętokrzyskie Regional Association and the Association of the Polish Writers name of John Paul II in Chicago, a member of which the author has been since the year 2006. It is worth mentioning that father Jerzy Karpiński S.J. is the spiritual patron of the Association of the Polish Writers. The book has the cover designed by the author. M.M. Purymska was born on 13 June 1946 in Mielewskie, she graduated from the Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences at Warsaw University in 1968. She holds a Master's Degree in cartography.

In 1991 she emigrated to USA. She is a versatile creator not only a poetry writer but also a painter and an artistic photographer. She inspires other people to spiritual transformation and entering higher spiritual levels. Purymska's poetry and paintings are spiritual meditation. She paints landscapes, portraits, flowers and angels. In recent years she has showed her paintings at several exhibitions in the city of Chicago. She has participated in Poetry Autumns and Springs organized by the Association of the Polish Writers name of John Paul II in Chicago since 2009.

In the introduction to the book Andrzej Maciej Zarębski, PhD wrote: "the poems are saturated with nostalgia for the childhood and youth spent in the fatherland. They are characterized by the belief in the

imminent return to the fatherland. The message of this nostalgic and reflective poetry is so expressive that the reader shares this hope and belief. And this is the power and charm of Purymowska's poetry" (p.5 from the editor).

In the debut volume, the author states in the poem-message:

Don't live your life so fast
it's not worth it
sit down comfortably in your armchair
look inside yourself
ask your Angel
the purpose of your existence
it's Him who shall turn your traffic lights green
and shall point the way
you will understand then
this very necessity to stop...

(*The Message*, p. 43)

In the title poem the author would like to:

enter the eternity (...)
dip into the love light
touch the unknown substance
with a fog shroud
stride through the world's chaos
reveal the beauty
radiating with God's love

(*On the Wings of the Wind*, p.7)

A review by Elżbieta Słoń was published in Poland, its title was *The Woman Winged With the Wind*. The reviewer pointed to the content of the five parts of the volume: "The first one relates to the broadly understood love, the others - to her native land, the Christian faith, and the charm of the seasons. In conclusion, the author presented the reflections and thoughts on a variety of topics. Purymowska enriches the book with her paintings." (Elżbieta Słoń, *The Woman Winged With the Wind*, "Goniec Świętokrzyski", 2012. – Goniec No. 171. pdf, September No 3/40/171 – a quarterly social and cultural magazine of the Świętokrzyski region). The first part is entitled *On Love*. Love seems to be the essence of the artist's life. The poet describes love, addressing her as a person:

Submerged in dew
you comb your hair with the wind

to weave cornflowers into them
and so poppies and lilies of the Valley

(*About Love*, p. 10)

The second part of the volume is entitled *Fatherland*. Here the lines reveal longing for Poland, the homeland - Podlasie. The author being an immigrant, living in North America feels a Pole. She says in the poem of the same title:

Poland, my fatherland
feels proud of its name
with poetry imprinted across
from the Tatras to the Baltic

(*Fatherland*, p. 34)

Part Three of the book is entitled *The Act of Faith* includes religious poems or poems referring to religion. The lyrical subject wonders:

What's sadness for
I pose myself a question
I shall shut it in a safe
And return it to God

(*Questions*, p. 51)

In many poems of *The Act of Faith* the lyrical subject prays, there are many poems-prayers (*The Morning Prayer, Dear Lord, A Word about the Virgin Mary, Thanksgiving*, and other. Here is a line from *Thanksgiving*:

Thank You Lord
For every single day
sunny or rainy
warm and frosty (...)

For a child's smile
And old man's
embittered face
Thank you
For each particle
of Your Universe
For Your existence and so others' and mine

Thank You (Thanksgiving, p. 57)

Elżbieta Słoń noted in her review "At the end of the book you can get a dessert - the reproductions of oil paintings by Maria Mili Purymska. She likes to paint landscapes, flowers, angels, portraits, and still life. The paintings are expressive, in them there are a lot of warm, bright colours: brown, red, shades of yellow, often against the dark green or dark blue. To sum up - interestingly painted poems and interestingly illustrated."

In the part entitled *Reflections* the poet talks about joy, peace, solitude, awe, envy, and forgiveness. In the poem *To My Children* the poet confessed:

You were little crumbs
when I first
Saw you and held you
In my arms
I hugged you and asked
the Angel to guide you (...)

(*To My Children*, p.82)

The late debut of the author deserves the attention of readers.

Key words:

Purymska Maria Mili (1946 -), Polish poetry in the United States, poetry of emigration, religious lyric poetry, patriotic lyric poetry, personal lyric poetry,

Bibliography:

Maria Mili Purymska, *Na skrzydłach wiatru* [*On the Wings of the Wind*], Afterword: Janusz Kopeć, Zagnańsk : The Świętokrzyskie Regional Association ; Chicago : [s. n.] 2012, p. 103, VIII, The Świętokrzyska Library ; 295.

Information about the Author of the review:

Alina Szymczyk is a Polish poet and a writer, the president of the Polish Writers Association named John Paul II (in Polish: Zrzeszenie Literatów Polskich imienia Jana Pawła II) in Chicago in the United States of America, an emigrant from Poland to the USA.