

Danuta Mucha

Afterword

The book „Following the heart” by a poet of Wrocław, Karolina Kusek, resembles her previous one „Hand in hand with granny”(1982) in terms of atmosphere and imagery, so it is a quest of a child into Arcadia, a homeplace of its own childhood. Thus we have here an idyllic, rural landscape saturated with countryside elements (domestic animals and flowers, storks, ladybirds, bees and birds), and there are childhood friends and so on. A child- unlike the child from the mentioned book - is not a biological one. In „Following the heart” we have a retrospective picture, painted with colours of childhood. So this leitmotiv expressed in the last poem „The Message” is the most telling and significant idea of the book. The poet seems to be saying that we cannot destroy „the spirit of childhood” and the memory of childhood, because we will resemble „unfeeling robots” with hearts that cannot feel. The author keeps on returning to childhood and its great role in human life. (in poems: „Towards grandparents”, „Childhood”, „Home”, „Mallows”, „A colour of childhood”, „The end of summer” and many other). She tries to lend a true meaning to the word CHILD - HOOD descending apparently from a spirit of Mickiewicz poetry where the words: *A realm of childhood! It will for ever remain / Sacred and pure like first loving* are echoing in Kusek poems.

Analysing the sense of the poems by Kusek, you can clearly realize what childhood means to you in your adult life. „A colour of childhood” retained by a child permeates through all the bright and dark colours of adulthood, and even if you do not let it permeate, you cannot wipe it out or cover it as it is stronger than anything. In the first poem, „A way” you fly away as a child to grandparents – in one of the last poems, „The end of summer”— you come back to adulthood, to the reality of life, dressed up in „an overcoat of life”. It is hard to believe that you can reconcile two different things, the poetry of childhood and the prose of adult life. However it really happens so, as in this poetry, you can detect a spirit of a work by Saint-Exupery,

„Little prince”, with its premise: „You can only see well with your heart”.
„Following the heart” is a book truly written with the heart.
A child is presented with a first literary poem—a philosophical study of the poetics of the word CHILDHOOD. And this literary poem is very successful.