

原著

# Thomas Hardyの詩“The Chosen”に描かれた理想の女性像

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## On an Ideal Woman in Thomas Hardy's Poem “The Chosen”

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### Abstract

“The Chosen” is a somewhat grotesque and fantastic narrative poem in which the hero has been caught in a kind of spell by his idealization for women. Though he looks like a Don Juan, he has sought to find only an ideal in many women. After having been involved with five women, one after another, he finally finds “A woman for whom great gods might strive”, but she is nothing but his realization of woman. In this essay, I intend to read this poem as an allegory and infer the sixth woman, whose face changes into those of the five women, is not actual but a phantom; that is, she is a ghostly blend of five women. This poem suggests an ideal woman may be created by being blended from five women, but that it is impossible to find such an ideal woman in this world.

### 要約

「選ばれし女性たち」は、やや怪気的な幻想風の物語詩である。主人公の回想によって過去に五人の女性との不毛の恋愛を匂わせながら、実は唯一人の理想の女性を希求しての観念的な愛の遍歴である。つまり女性に対する自我理想の投影と追求であり、永遠に満たされない結果的ドンファン物語である。この小論では、五人の女性の顔が融合して変容する六番目の「理想の女性」が現実のものではなく、男性のidealizationによる幻影であるとして捉え、五人が合体して始めて「究極の女性」になりうるとの比喩の観点からこの詩を論じる。