

*Rositsa Tsvetanova*

*THE RIDDLE OF LIFE AS A SPIRITUAL AND AESTHETICAL CHALLENGE  
IN PÄR LAGERKVIST'S WORKS*

*Described as a believer without fate, as a modern mythmaker and thinker, absorbed in the eternal riddles of life, the Swedish writer and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature Pär Lagerkvist draws the thread of the original existential problems in all of his poems, plays and novels by working with rich symbols and bright visualization, through a colourful gallery of individuals – from ancient Christian characters to grotesque incarnations of the evil. He grew up and was brought up in the spirit of strict pietism, he soaked the anguish and fears of the contemporaries of two world wars and, eventually, came to a religious resignation in front of the unreachable but so tempting challenge of the mystery of life. Lagerkvist renewed the literature and theatre art of his time and influences generations of readers who feel the same urge to start a pilgrimage in search for the meaning of life and the answer to the great riddle of human existence.*

*Keywords: religion, drama, poetry, God, existence, anguish, myth, belief, mystery*