

Abstract:

If the play *Life Is a Dream* is known for something, it is the thematic conflict between the power of fate (predestination) and the free will. Firstly, this thesis situates said drama in the historical and literary context of Spanish Baroque period and then it goes on to focus on the author Pedro Calderón de la Barca and any major life events that might have influenced his work. Primarily, though, the thesis is dedicated to a thematic analysis of the play *Life Is a Dream* with attention to the topic of predestination.

Keywords:

Life Is a Dream, Calderón de la Barca, predestination, free will, philosophy, Baroque drama, 17th century, Spanish Baroque period, Siglo de Oro, Spanish Golden Age