

**THE CATEGORIES OF TIME AND SPACE AS ARTISTIC EDUCATION CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SACRED TOPOS
IN THE FANTASTIC CYCLE, K.S. LEWIS «THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA»**

The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven high fantasy novels by C.S. Lewis. It is considered a classic of children's literature and is the author's best-known work, having sold over 100 million copies in 47 languages. Written by Lewis between 1949 and 1954, illustrated by Pauline Baynes and originally published in London between October 1950 and March 1956, The Chronicles of Narnia has been adapted several times, complete or in part, for radio, television, the stage, and film.

Set in the fictional realm of Narnia, a fantasy world of magic, mythical beasts, and talking animals, the series narrates the adventures of various children who play central roles in the unfolding history of that world. Except in *The Horse and His Boy*, the protagonists are all children from the real world, magically transported to Narnia, where they are called upon by the lion Aslan to protect Narnia from evil and restore the throne to its rightful line. The books span the entire history of Narnia, from its creation in *The Magician's Nephew* to its eventual destruction in *The Last Battle*.

Inspiration for the series is taken from multiple sources; in addition to adapting numerous traditional Christian themes, the books freely borrow characters and ideas from Greek, Turkish and Roman mythology as well as from traditional British and Irish fairy tales. The books have profoundly influenced adult and children's fantasy literature since World War II. Lewis's exploration of themes not usually present in children's literature, such as religion, as well as the books' perceived treatment of issues including race and gender, has caused some controversy.

The Last Battle is a high fantasy novel for children by C.S. Lewis, published by The Bodley Head in 1956. It was the seventh and final novel in the *The Chronicles of Narnia* (1950–1956). Like the others it was illustrated by Pauline Baynes and her work has been retained in many later editions.

The Last Battle is set almost entirely in the Narnia world and the English children who participate arrive only in the middle of the narrative. The novel is set some 200 Narnian years after previous novel *The Silver Chair* and about 2500 years since the creation of the world narrated in *The Magician's Nephew*. A false Aslan is set up in the north-western borderlands and conflict between true and false Narnians merges with that between Narnia and Calormen, whose people worship Tash. It concludes with termination of the world by Aslan, after a «last battle» that is practically lost.

Macmillan US published an American edition within the calendar year.

Lewis and *The Last Battle* won the annual Carnegie Medal from the Library Association, recognising the year's best children's book by a British subject. The author wrote to illustrator Baynes, «is it not rather 'our' medal? I'm sure the illustrations were taken into account as well as the text.