

THE
ANXIETY
OF
INFLUENCE

A T H E O R Y
O F P O E T R Y

Second Edition

HAROLD BLOOM

Resumo de The Anxiety of Influence: A Theory of Poetry, 2nd Edition

Harold Bloom's *The Anxiety of Influence* has cast its long shadow of influence since it was first published in 1973. Through an insightful study of Romantic poets, Bloom puts forth his central vision of the relations between tradition and the individual artist.

His argument that all literary texts are a strong misreading of those that precede them had an enormous impact on the practice of deconstruction and poststructuralist literary theory. The book remains a central work of criticism for all students of literature.

Written in a moving personal style, anchored by concrete examples, and memorable quotes, this second edition of Bloom's classic work maintains that the anxiety of influence cannot be evaded--neither by poets nor by responsible readers and critics.

A new Introduction, centering upon Shakespeare and Marlowe, explains the genesis of Bloom's thinking, and the subsequent influence of the book on literary criticism of the past twenty years. Here, Bloom asserts that the anxiety of influence comes out of a complex act of strong misreading, a creative interpretation he calls "poetic misprision." The influence-anxiety does not so much concern the forerunner but rather is an anxiety achieved in and by the story, novel, play, poem, or essay.

In other words, without Keats's reading of Shakespeare, Milton, and Wordsworth, we could not have Keats's odes and sonnets and his two *Hyperions*. This new edition is certain to find a responsive audience among the new generation of scholars, students, and layreaders interested in the Bloom canon.

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