

**IMAGINAR LITERAR, CUVÂNT, IMAGINE, SIMBOL  
ÎN POEMUL „DUPĂ MELCI” DE ION BARBU**

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***Abstract:** This paper proposes the analysis of the poem „După melci” by Ion Barbu from a hermeneutic perspective, following its mythical and symbolic background. We undertake here the presentation of an attempt to enter into the essence of the problematic of symbols, after a theoretical foray into the imaginary. The analysis will address the role and importance of the game and a perspective on playful identity, but also the power of the word as a poetic game, and the power of incantations to make or break destinies. We will focus on the folk chronotope, pointing out the significance of space and time, the symbol of sleep and the symbolism of the centre. This ability to use symbols has transformed us into humans and allowed the creation and perpetuation of cultures.*

***Keywords:** imaginary, symbol, playful, game, chronotope, incantation, folklore, myth.*