**“Bright Dreams”** (*„Spoži sapņi”*) by Aspazija (1909)

During the first years spend in Switzerland Aspazija wrote a portrayal book “Bright Dreams” dedicated to the victims of the backlash of 1905. The collection includes three fantasies — “Via dolorosa”, “A girl’s Myrtle” (*„Meitenes mirte”*), “In Courtyards of Death” (*„Nāves pagalmos”*). The poetic fantasies are a kind of poetry, even though they are written in prose. Aspazija’s goal wasn’t an exact depiction of the events of the revolution. The characters of the portrayals aren’t real people, but allegory’s and symbols. The author shows the overall atmosphere and feelings of the time and visions of the future. Such a form of prose is a characteristic occurrence of the time that is also used by Jānis Poruks and other authors. For Aspazija, this modernistic way of writing serves more as a new chance to search for new forms of expression and later often transforms into poetry. The collection “Bright Dreams” is opened by a dialogue composed in 1904 “Socrates and Bacchante” (*„Sokrāts un Bakhante”*). It talks about the relationship of Truth and Beauty. In the center of the dialogue is the untiring seeker of the truth Socrates and Bacchante — “eternal glitter of change and deceit — Beauty”. She is a relative of Spīdola (a witch character from the epic hero poem “Lāčplēsis”, written by A. Pumpurs). Socrates is searching for the most humane duty or the good of the human community, Bacchante — the most beautiful moment in every individual’s life. An ideal would be a harmonic resonance between both: “when beauty will be truth and truth will be beauty”. “Bright Dreams” was published by the publishing house “Dzirciemnieku izdevniecība” in 1909.