

## Miguel Torga - biography



Adolfo Correia Rocha was born on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1907 in São Martinho da Anta, Portugal. In 1917, when he was a young rebel teenager, he went to a mansion in Porto where he used to work outside and other tasks. But he was fired because of being disobedient.

One year later, he was sent to the Seminary in Lamego because his father wanted him to be a priest, although he didn't want to. There, he studied Portuguese, History, Geography and learnt Latin. That year was remarkable for him.

In 1920, he went to work in his uncle's farm, in Brazil. In 1925 he was sent to Coimbra after his uncle had noticed that he was prodigy boy.

Two years later he finished high

school and was admitted to the College of Medicine in Coimbra University and at the time he was passionate about literature. While he was in College, he published his first poetry book "Ansiedade", and collaborated in the "Presença" magazine.

He married Andrée Crabbé in 1940 and they had a little girl named Clara Rocha. Miguel Torga was considered the most important Portuguese writer of the 20th century.

He used to give free medical appointments to poor people, which demonstrated that he was a well-spoken and good-hearted man.



## Ave da Esperança

Passo a noite a sonhar o amanhecer.  
Sou a ave da esperança.  
Pássaro triste que na luz do sol  
Aquece as alegrias do futuro,  
O tempo que há-de vir sem este muro  
De silêncio e negrura  
A cercá-lo de medo e de espessura  
Maciça e tumular;  
O tempo que há-de vir - esse desejo  
Com asas, primavera e liberdade;  
Tempo que ninguém há-de  
Corromper  
Com palavras de amor, que são a morte  
Antes de se morrer.



*Miguel Torga*

By interpreting this poem attentively, it is understood that the author has suffered a dramatic grief of love and because of that he deeply wishes the upcoming of a new day and, that way, time will heal his sorrows; he entitles himself “ave da esperança”, *bird of hope*, as a way of being free and hopeful. He lives sadly, waiting for the future and it is the sun light that comforts him and gives him hope. The “muro”, *wall*, blocks the advance of time, as the past blocks the coming of the future. When that future arrives, full of happiness, the author won't let anything cross his way because these “palavras de amor”, *words of love*, symbolize the rack of his soul, once they remember him his failed and lost love.

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