

Press Release

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BERMAN LITERATURE PRIZE 2022 IS AWARDED TO THE HUNGARIAN AUTHOR PÉTER NÁDAS

**Berman Literature Prize amounting to 750.000 Swedish Kronor is awarded
to the Hungarian author Péter Nádas**

The jury's motivation reads:

»Péter Nádas is awarded the Berman Literature Prize for his autobiographical novel *Illuminated Details*, in which he demonstrates, with razor-sharp observation and stunning artistic luminosity, how an individual's life can contain a microcosm that in every moment and every detail turns outwards to face the twentieth century's larger universe of losses and disasters.«

»**Péter Nádas** is one of a long line of European epic storytellers,« says chairman of the jury Daniel Pedersen. »*Illuminated Details* is a veritable work of memory in which Nádas combines tiny details with major historical upheavals. The spirit of the Berman Literature Prize is about the crossing of boundaries, which is what this novel does. Between generations, people and times. All this is channelled through the author's stream of associations, resulting in a massive portrayal of memories from a life.«

Péter Nádas was born in Budapest in 1942. He made his debut with the story *The Bible*, (A Biblia) published in a magazine in 1965, and twelve years later came his first novel, *A Book of Memories* (*Emlékiratok könyve*, 1986), *Parallel Stories* (*Párhuzamos történetek*, 2005) and *Illuminated Details* (*Világló részletek*, 2017). He has published books of essays, novels and stories. A particular characteristic is his keen interest in photography. His books have been translated into nearly thirty languages and he has won countless awards.

Berman Literature Prize was established in 2020 to reward an author whose works embodies the statues of the Prize, in the spirit of the Jewish tradition and literary works aiming to explore the rich Jewish culture and at the same time »exceed times and cultures«thereby striving for the universally human.

Berman Literature Prize is worth SEK 750,000 yearly and will be awarded for ten years. The first Berman Literature Prize was awarded 2021 to the Israeli author David Grossman. The prize ceremony 2022 will take place in Stockholm, in October.

Berman Literature Prize will go to an author who, regardless of background or genre, has worked in the spirit of the Jewish tradition. Members of the jury are Daniel Pedersen, Ingrid Elam, Hanna Nordenhök, Na'ama Rokem, Thomas Steinfeld and Svante Weyler.

For more information, please contact:

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visit www.bermanliteratureprize.com for photos

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Catharina and Thomas Berman (©: Jonas Ekströmer/TT)

The Founders:

Thomas Berman was born in Stockholm in 1943 and grew up in Norrköping. Catharina Berman (born Wranne) was born in 1949 and grew up in Stockholm. In 2019, the Berman family began discussions about a donation to a literature prize dedicated to the Jewish tradition. In the spring of 2020, the Berman Literature Prize was founded and the organization, consisting of a committee and a jury, was established.

Berman Literature Prize has the following ethos and declaration of intent:

»KNOWLEDGE IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU«

There is more than one Jewish tradition, and the tradition that the Berman Literature Prize seeks to highlight has developed in constant dialogue with other cultures and languages. This means that for thousands of years it has preserved a rich history and literature, while simultaneously encountering the languages and texts of other cultures. Tradition and renewal have interacted, giving rise to a constant critical rereading of religious texts as well as literature and songs, poetry and philosophy. This is a tradition of knowledge in which interpretation, interpretative concepts and memory are at the centre, and because of historical circumstances involving persecution and discrimination, it is often written from a marginal position and from the experience of exile.

It is an ongoing exploratory discussion, and all the forms it takes have one thing in common: an impassioned and sincere belief in the ability of the literary text to transcend times and cultures, to let words convey experiences and thoughts between people. The aim of the Berman Literature Prize is to honour authors in recent years who, regardless of background or genre, have worked in the spirit of this tradition.