

**Prophetically Apostolic Theme in Ukrainian Emigrant Prose  
of 40<sup>th</sup> of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Recent decades have been marked by the growing interest of the scientists of our country to the subject of creative usage of Holy Scripture by the Ukrainian writers. The aim of the given article is making the first step in finding out the distinctive peculiarities of the interpreting the New Testament's characters by Artistic Ukrainian movement prose writers (1945-1949). For this purpose we will analyze L. Mosends' novel *Last Prophet* (1948), story by I. Kostetzky *Day Saints* (1946), short story by V. Domontovich *The Apostle* (1946).

All the given texts were written in postwar emigration camps. These works of literature appeared under dramatic circumstances. The Ukrainian writers greatly suffered from the burden of native people's lack of sovereignty. The situation left an imprint on their personal destinies. The process of comprehension of national-liberation emulation in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century also became a pressing problem for them. During that historic period art activities became the so-called tribune for discussing vital problems of national existence.

This task was implemented by different ways. Some masters of word strove for completing the task using a "live", contemporary material. The others – L. Mosends, I. Kostetzky and V. Domontovich among them – directed their views to the past, in particular sought for analogy on the pages of Holy Scripture.

It was not an escape from topical contemporary problems but conformation to the naturally determined choice. First of all, significant and common Ukrainians' and Jews' historic destiny mould was conducive to it. Loss of government, national slavery, disgrace that lasted for centuries caused a new outburst of the national liberation struggle in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Secondly, Ukrainian written history and literature from the very beginning were integrated into the cultural context of Holy Scripture. For Ukrainian literature Holy Scripture is the prototext, the foundation stone of national cultural scope. So Holy Scripture reference was considered as the highest criterion of argumentation and truth.

Prophetically apostolic theme was quite pressing for the literary emigration. It was brought into correlation with the national slavery theme; it arose from the experience of the national liberation struggle. Ukrainian people had not managed to get their aim of state independence with the armed struggle.

The primary source of L. Mosends' novel was the history of John the Baptist in the New Testament. He became a prototype of Yegohanan that means "given by God". *Last Prophet* is an ideological novel, the every detail of which is saturated with the ideas of enslaved people's liberation struggle for freedom. So, personal Yegohanan's biography is set into the biography of the whole Jewish nationality and his life is shown against a background of Jewish liberation demands.

The insight of the story *Day Saints* by I. Kostetzky is more local and more theatrically effective. I. Kostetzky doesn't use long descriptions, stories and pre-stories etc. Everything is concentrated carefully and at the same time the author has told quite enough for the reader to get necessary information: Romans – are the state nation; Israelites, Greeks, Syrians – are non-state nation: the former are conquerors, winners; the latter are defeated, slaves.

Historical novel *The Apostle* by V. Domontovich can be called as moralistic dialogue to some extent. The author uses the so-called cosmopolitan concepts: people, authority (Sanhedrim), insurrection etc. The prose writer desacralized his story in a pointed manner. His apostles look more like profane political community than like the followers of the Son of God. After all, the character of Christ is interpreted according to their profane beliefs.

Everything mentioned above is very important for understanding the analyzed texts. Consistent government official, the author of *Last Prophet* was hard-edged:

independent national state – the only way of people’s existence. But at the same time I. Kostetzky examines also advantages of “the life in assimilation”.

Apostle Homa of V. Domontovich shows amazing cohesion with the apostle of I. Kostetzky.

Summing up everything mentioned above, it is important to underline, that the appeal of the postwar emigration prose writers to the prophetically apostolic theme was entirely natural process caused by the nature of Ukrainian literature. Since the dawn of time it was the part of Christian culture that is why the continuance of national art’s tradition was important for the writers. This fact was against the demands of that period, because totalitarian regime in Ukraine broke that tradition in 1920s. At the same time the writers from the Artistic Ukrainian movement tried to elucidate the eternal topics, appearance of the Bible according to the urgent problems of the present – sacred search of sense of non-state nation’s life. This fact modified the process of modernization of eternal religious topic to a great extent; it also appealed to contemporary reader, induced to create the specific language, illusion of veracity that provided the interpretation of sacral characters of Holy Scripture in profane style.