

**Sacral Dimension in the Ukrainian Diaspora Prose**  
**(Based on the Works of Ludmila Kovalenko**  
**and Oleksandra Kopach)**

The aim of the article is to show the function of category “sacrum” based on the studies of Diaspora writer’s poetry and come to logical conclusion of sacral dimension which is in the work of the authors mentioned above.

L. Kovalenko models fantastic and mythological world in her flash fiction. Fantastic vision of the God’s life who created people is shown in different situations by L. Kovalenko especially in the childhood. Short stories show irrational motives which can manipulate with consciousness, influence on individual who adheres to Christian traditions or tries to achieve the basis of Christian evangelism. Short stories are full of abstract gravity with its prolong thinking. With this purpose the author uses ethical, philosophical and theological vocabulary.

Stories by L. Kovalenko have something common with *Miniature* by O. Kopach. The author challenges to the captivity of a person’s thought, proposes contra-conceptual reading of legends, phenomena, world events. Flash fiction by O. Kopach are full of mental intentionality, aphoristic things, refined and unexpected plot collisions, fantasy, legendary and biblical motives. This is an example of modeling of theological conception of the world and an individual in general. Small in size, these works are indeed full of deep meaning.

The author tries through the artistic modeling of the concept of a human and a world with the help of spiritual imperatives to identify where the mankind and Ukraine are going to and what is their future. The cult of practical mind led to technocentrism, depersonalization of the human, absence of spirituality, material enrichment, common benefits etc. O. Kopach-Yavorska realizes that the most dangerous harm is the person’s subjugation to the bulk of population. That is why the French painter-modernist Paul Holen gave the following name to one of his

paintings: “Where are we from? Who are we? Where are we going to?” We can find the answer in the author’s short stories where literary myths and eternal images began to achieve the meaning of restoration and rethinking on the ground of the Ukrainian mentality.

Liudmyla Kovalenko and Oleksandra Kopach idealize sacral dimension that is to say everything which is connected with divine, religious, the other world, irrational and mystic things and is different from the everyday things, notions, phenomena – they idealize religion which is opposed to material outlook. Religion cannot solve an individual’s problem, cannot remove person’s suffering but makes life more acceptable, teaches a person to be patient and to find peace in “self-sympathy”, personal dignity, reconciliation of the soul for the sake of delight and penance.

Modeling unreal world the author does not show the ways to overcome earthly sufferings by human but just to be tolerant with oneself for the sake of God. They believe that supranational Superman is a crystal-clear and all-powerful creature. The Supreme Being is aware of all the ways how to solve problems of the mankind. At the same time his ideal can be implemented only in a myth, the human can meet God only in the afterworld. This ideal is a personification of national soul, a nation that strive for self-realization understanding self-insignificance. It is not by chance that O. Kopach uses such word as ‘crowd’. The whole world belongs to Him – always and without any obligations. He is an absolute will and power. And for the people’s existence we should thank God with everyday prayers.

According to the mythical version of O. Kopach, God is a universal personality. In such a way a prose-writer immerse into Christological perspective, personification of a superman. But this problematics is interpreted through the two worlds: good and evil, law and godsend, negative and positive freedom. The writer stresses on a canon image of Jesus Christ, to live according to God’s commandments. So, all our actions and deeds should be subordinated to His will. We cannot talk about freedom when we always depend on somebody. That is why J.-P. Sartre offered to reject discussions about existence of primacy. Wise limit should dominate everywhere because “even if we have undeniable evidence about existence of God, it

will not save an individual of himself because an individual is a creature who is condemned to freedom (and responsibility). An individual is who he makes from himself. An individual makes himself and there is no “essence”, nothing except him!”

The Risorgimento (regeneration, improvement of the soul) is the writer’s idea; such regeneration coincides with a national idea giving faith to readers, *spero meliora*. The exemplification of the works by O. Kopach is a bright argument of inner concentration on the eurhythmy of the national nature, extrapolation of high spirituality and the same time the patriotic feelings of previous generations.