

Religious Motives in Yevhen Malanyuk's Poetry

In our research work on the material of Yevhen Malanyuk's poetry of interwar period we are trying to comprehend religious motives based on the author's Christian consciousness, in which categories of supernatural and existence of Ukraine are being crystallized.

A sense of heart pain, caused by the defeat of national revolution in Ukraine and inflicted by Malanyuk's several decades wandering while being first year sergeant as well as the realization of the tragedy of Motherland's loss and the crash of state hopes at the beginning of 1920-s, these all provoked a number of logical questions.

A forced expatriation stirred up in poet's consciousness and worldview the principles of Christianity and stipulated the search for support in the Bible. The poet tries to comprehend the reasons of national tragedy of Ukraine through the prism of Christian idea and faith and thus resorts to the comprehension of conventional moral and ethical values that will make a solid background for his search of truth for himself and his people.

There are almost no successive developments of biblical plots, rehashes, direct reminiscences of the Bible texts in Yevhen Malanyuk's works. The mainstay on the Bible is built up by Yevhen Malanyuk in transparent analogies to the plots of Holy Scripture and in biblical truths that they create in reader's consciousness.

The picture of the poet's poetic world is created due to antinomy of two worlds – supernatural (absolutely spiritual) and real with all its earthly collisions, which are comprehended from the point of view of exile torn off from his home land.

Both a Roman Varangian way with its primacy of weapon and a vector of combination of the Roman and Hellenic beginnings are clearly distinguished in the texts' nationmaking space in search for the Ukrainian future as well as in the journalistic research, and in Malanyuk's historiosophic reflections. According to

Malanyuk, it cherishes the Spirit and forms the man in the boundless dimension of God-life-Universe.

Exposing Ukrainian many-sided nature the poet, on the one hand, proclaims numerous curses in address of those who are indifferent to the country's fate. He calls Ukraine "half-dead" Scythian Hellas, "the reckless harlot", "lustful scythian hetaera", who "was loved through by travelers", who gave birth to "the bastards", "janissaries" (generalized character of bottom for Malanyuk), who will continue the process of self-destruction. On the other hand, realizing the place of Ukraine punished by captivity and spiritual slavery out of border of Divine benediction, nevertheless, the artist continues to love it.

High Spirit (of the sublimity) which is found mainly in the poetry of the prison period is realized not only through the sacred love to "Hellas trampled down by hordes", but also through the eternal truth of God-Word. As the poet says the way in the world to the sublimity-sky consists exactly in the Divine mission of the word. Besides, the direct dialogue of the poet with God is repeated throughout his oeuvre.

Yevhen Malanyuk's dialogue with the Book of Books is realized, in particular, in poetic texts at the level of numerous analogies of the Old Testament stories about the fate of Israel with the fate of Ukraine. For example, motive of identities in the fates of the Jewish and Ukrainian nations is outlined in the deprivation of Almighty's benediction, in the banishment from the native land, in the conquest by foreigners, in the long-term captivity, in spiritual slavery and destruction of sacred objects, in the birth of "beggarly slaves", "eternal slaves" and others (*Dust of Gospel, Psalms of steppe, Exodus, Favorable Weather, Black Hellas, Curse, curse of steppes to the black dales, Virgin-Insult, etc.*). In the poetry *Emigration* Malanyuk distinctly pushes on the chain of associations of Ukrainian people tragedy with the familiar plot of an exit of Jewish people from the Babylonian captivity as from the wasteland desert and steppe. The same analogy according to the biblical tradition is read in the fragments of the history of punishment in the poem "Since olden times punished by steppe..." (1932).

Thus, searching for an answer to the question “What nation are we?”, “What are the reasons of modern tragedies of the Ukrainian people and nation?”, or “Is there a prospect of future state and spiritual flights?”, Yevhen Malanyuk in his poetry strove to approach to eternal truths. The analyzed works display the consciousness of the person who awakes and guides the people poetically transforming the biblical motifs. In poetic historiosophy, the address to higher Spirit, to God-Word reveals the attempts of the poet-exile to combine the time line of the past, present and future, which is after all “the breakthrough of the spirit to the victory over “reality”.