

**The Biblical Motives and Images in the Collection of Poetry**

**by Dmytro Kremin' *Pecktoral***

The article is devoted to the analysis of biblical motives and images in the collection of poetry by D. Kremin' *Pecktoral*. It was mentioned that from the remotest time to nowadays the Bible is the source of themes, plots, motives, images which create its own discourse within literature. Biblical motives gained new meanings in this very collection of verses of a famous poet from Mykolayiv. It won Taras Shevchenko Literary Award in 1999.

The author addresses to biblical motives in the collection of poetry *Pecktoral* more frequently comparing to his earlier poetic works. The poet uses “eternal” plots in different aspects: on the one hand he preserves biblical connotations and on the other hand he applies a wide pallet of sense nuances, making these motives more up-to-date.

Investigation of biblical motives and images in the collection of poetry *Pecktoral* is actual and indisputable because the sacred world of the Bible is worked out creatively by the poet. Correlation of biblical imagery as a crucial aspect in the collection of poetries makes concept of poet's disposition and style more thorough.

The article is based on the issue that the poet shapes motives and images from the Scriptures to modern or historical backgrounds, enriching it with sense nuances and urgent interpretations. And D. Kremin' also applies fiction images aptly, especially allusions and reminiscences.

The most widespread motives of the poet which he took from the book of the Old Testament are stories of the world creation, Eden and sojourn of the first people there, Abel's murder of Cain and the construction of the tower of Babel.

The biblical motives resound the acutest in a symphony *The garden*. In the other poem *Motto* we perceive a garden like an uninhabited waste land, the garden of despair, the land of loneliness that is “too small for biblical stars” and the garden is also a puppet

show “without puppets”. The image of “the universal river” represents the Jordan that according to the story of Jesus Navin, from the Old Testament, divided a desert from Canaan lands, though in Kremin’s interpretation the river flows upwards to the sky, to Lord.

The symphony Allegretto *The Supreme Song of the Garden* presents intimate motives addressed to a bellowed person. Some similar aspects we can trace in Solomon’s creative inputs. Unlike the Bible D. Kremin’ pays little attention to allurements of the maid’s body and accentuates on her voice, “a maiden voice” that rushes above the garden. Solomon also remembers about the garden but making up intimate and metaphorical implications. The uniting point is sense of light and love in both works.

The poet also appeals to the problem of ruining of ancient cathedrals that was a frequent event during the Soviet era; holy places were “turned into cattle sheds by our distant relatives”. The first biblical murder also rises in *Pecktoral* and Gethsemane’s garden where eternal symbols of Ukrainians (house and bread) rise with Soviet appendages (reaping hook, hammer, flags).

The motif of a secret supper and crucifixion subsequently resound in the verse “*Jesuit shows stigmas...*”. And the author points out pessimistically that Mother of God and even the person of the Holy Trinity cannot save people.

The poem *The benefit performance on the Golgotha* represents a topic of betrayal and crucifixion; “the last benefit performance playing God” despite tragic sense has got burlesque perception and sarcastic metaphors. The motif of Jesus Christ’s trial and execution intensifies with figurative parallels to modern times and moderation of st. Peter’s image.

At the end of the article it is evident that biblical motives in poetic works of D. Kremin’ are multilevel and modern because the poet often uses words and plot lines from the Bible into Ukrainian reality. We can trace the Old Testament’s signs (world’s creation, the Fall, construction of the tower of Babel), the New Testament’s motives

(betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, obedience and humility) and biblical images (the person of the Holy Trinity, Peter and Paul, Isaiah, Juda etc.), locations from the Scriptures (Gethsemane's garden, the Golgotha, Eden, Babel, Bethlehem). All this fills and enriches a biblical world of poetic works of D. Kremin' and it helps to conceive daily life of Ukrainian reality through biblical motives and images.