

Spiritual Axiology of a Sacral Word in Natalia Kobrynska's sketch *Prostybig*

In the result of Natalia Kobrynska's creative evolution and interesting style transformations of her writer's technique towards modernist quests, the collection of her literary fairy tales emerged in 1904 in Chernivtsi. Genealogic fairytale marker, which is only seemingly manifested in these works, serves as a means of artistic exploitation of myths and archetypes (of destiny, talent, pride, word-sacrum), that perform basic constituent and imaginary role while building up another visual mythological world.

Kobrynska's intellectual outlook, particularly at the turn of the centuries, extremely sensitively and comprehensively deepened the phenomenon of sacred in its various dimensions. In particular, in the sketch *Prostybig*, which is included to the previously mentioned collection *Fairytales*, due to the symbolism of existential *duality suggestive-catharsis* function of the word and mystic role of elder-beggar who is pronouncing this word, simultaneously representing two types of being – *desacral* world of the madding crowd, eliminated spiritual values; and sacral world – the sphere of contact with the Absolute, space of Blissful Heaven.

Kobrynska endows leitmotif verbal symbol *Prostybig* with a powerful magical intentionality. Sacral markedness of the word has a magical *catharsis* effect on chance passers and is an indicator of their virtue and means of settlement of the profane world moral standards. The act of alms – *Prostybig* – appears in the work as an effective mnemonic warning-sign of religious and spiritual indifference of people. Verbal energy encourages inhabitants of *desacral* world to comprehend themselves in indigenous life outside of time, to measure passed earthly way by the spiritual values. The effectiveness of this magical monoverbal sacrum is caused by firmly rooted faith of the laity, which associates the innermost aspects of their earthly existence and sincere desire for eternal life with a word.

Verbal code pronounced by charismatic elder excites the religious sensibility of the laity, since there is ontological potential in the symbolic sacred words and future life prospects of a person, who tries to improve his earthly existence and take care of the transcendent with the help of a good act.

Alms as an important spiritual practice of Christianity, finds the nature of the worlds' interaction in Kobrynska's work. In every good act the spiritual human nature is sublimated, there is a human pursuit of salvation in every donated coin. The beggar opposes the idea of spiritual values detected by charity act to the covetousness and meanness of worldly life. Beggar's figure corresponds to the "wise old man" archetype (K. Jung), who is endowed with the word's magic and is authorized to proclaim the will of God in this world while living in two temporal planes that express values of duality – in profane and sacred time. Elder who possesses a special religious worldview imitates divine models of being. In the Ukrainian ethnic tradition the cult of beggar is endowed with a special moral and ethical influence. On the one hand, he tests axiological state of the society in his attitude to the poor and have-nots, and on the other hand – inspires humanity towards spiritual life according to Christian laws.

Verbal symbol “prostybig” in Kobrynska's sketch hides within several functional levels at once: pragmatic, intentional, sacred, enigmatic, esoteric, suggestive and transcendental. The existential idea lies within this verbal sign that directs a person to self-reflection, moral effectiveness, understanding and exaltation of Christian values over worldly material. The word as a sacred means of transcendental communication is opposed to secularized consciousness of the profane existence.

In Kobrynska's work *Prostybig*, the mythology of the word-sacrum, which is one of the sign eidoses of modern modality, reaccentuates the intention and intellectual and spiritual word nature from the pragmatic communicative concept into sacred phenomenon with the powerful esoteric resource.