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**The Image of Clergyman as Representation of Mystical Experience
in Novels by Halyna Pagutiak *Sluga z Dobromylya (Servant from Dobromyl)*
and *Urizka Gotyka (Gothic of Urizh)***

For the past decade great attention has been given to such topics as mystical and mysterious, unraveled and unexplored. This tendency has also got a place in the contemporary Ukrainian literature. For instance, the problem of fictional presence of the subject that experiences the confrontation with supernatural world is of the vital importance in scientific discourse nowadays. This article is focused on this very problem, which is targeted to explore the fictional functions of the clergymen's images in dilogy *Servant from Dobromyl* and *Gothic of Urizh* created by a contemporary Ukrainian writer Halyna Pagutiak.

Our research is devoted to a phenomenon of mysticism in the contemporary Ukrainian literature. Speaking in terms of the text, we are using the certain aspect of mysticism: as representation of the whole system of expressive and stylistic means that helped shaping the image of the most sensual and perceptible way of passive experience of the mysterious and supernatural staff, and the possible ways of interaction with it.

The representation of a sensual perception of surrounding world is relevant for contemporary Ukrainian literature, especially for the novels by Halyna Pagutiak. Among the creative works by Pagutiak there are several ones that feature mystical component more intensely than the others. Such works as *Compromise*, *Mustard Grain*, *Gentleman in a Black Suit with Glistening Buttons*, *Sunset in Urizh*, *Book of Dreams and Awakenings*, *Enchanted Musicians*, *Servant from Dobromyl* and *Gothic of Urizh*.

It should be noted, that an attempt to find the purport of routine and mystical is the subject of manifold works by G. Pagutiak. A singled out aspect of this problem is defining the function of a clergymen character in a numinous novel.

Let's analyze the classification of the clergymen's images in Pagutiak's works *Gothic of Urizh* and *Servant of Dobromyl*. Both novels have the same topos. It is clearly understood that action of the aforesaid novels and short stories *Gentleman in a Black Suit with Glistening Buttons*, *Sunset in Urizh* takes place in the same village (Urizh) located near Lviv (in Western part of Ukraine). This, so called "canned" world, that has certain strict territorial borders is used like an exceptional chronotope.

The values of church, as well as values of clergymen were always considered sacred in traditional classification of Christian believes. G. Pagutiak gives a different perspective, quite different from the conventional concept. In this dilogy, there is a certain number of clergymen that are performing the certain important purposes being an inseparable part of numinous world depicted in the novels.

One of the protagonists of *Gothic of Urizh* is Priest Antoni. From the first pages of the book we see him as an insider of this numinous, unwonted and gothic place Urizh. He has been born there and lived there all his life, being the essential part of the village. The villagers did not let him leave the place for the promotion to the local monastery. The clergyman is doleful, just like his place Urizh; and there are not so many reasons to be happy – as there are more funerals than weddings in it. This way, we could state that image of the clergymen performs the role *function*: it "cements" the fictional world of the novel, making it more capsulated. It is interesting, that most of the clergymen in dilogy are monks. They are "canned" in the capsulated world of monastery, which makes them very much alike with dwellers of Urizh; who hate the incomers.

Second function of the image of clergymen is connected with a plot development. Their actions make the plotline. In the novel *Servant of Dobromyl* the image clergymen and monks serves a mere purpose to unfold a mystical image of Servant from Dobromyl.

Third function of the image of clergymen in the dilogy is noting down the chronicles. In her dilogy the writer puts great emphasis on the fact that the word of clergymen is valued by people. Moreover, it is something sacred that is preserved by people of Urizh.

Pagutiak does not oppose dealings of demonological creatures to Christian ethics. They are depicted neither good, nor evil, even a murder isn't considered a sin, but a fact, that is colorless by its nature. This action is just a way to "get rid" of useless and pointless people. Nothing stands against vampires and the God, they also pray and go to church, craving to atone for their sins like St. Peter.

Making the conclusion, we state that clergymen are portrayed in mysterious novels by Halyna Pagutiak *Gothic of Urizh* and *Servant from Dobromyl* (Priest Antoni, Priest Jacob, Prior of a Brazilian monastery Myron the Sinner, Father Yoan) in two ways: as ordinary people (just like monks or clergymen) or as the symbols of the connection with mystical and unexplored. In the dilogy these images perform such functions: influence the plotline, produce certain atmosphere of mystical, are the capsulation of chronotopes of the novels, perform the function of a mediator between simple people and demonological creatures. As for secondary functions: note down the chronicles, make the text more didactical. All these characters listed above have certain ambivalence in their actions. They are not the embodiment of something scared, nor pure evil. These characters are the part of the world, where good and evil do not have strict borders, but interact with each other – even create certain harmony.