

THE IDEA OF M. BULGAKOV'S NOVEL «MASTER AND MARGARITA»

Buranova J. A.

Lecturer at Karshi State University

Sharipova F. T.

4th year student of Karshi State University

Abstract

The article analyzes the work of the famous Russian writer M. Bulgakov "The Master and Margarita". Facts from the history of the creation of the novel are given. The main attention is paid to the disclosure of the main themes that help determine the main idea of the novel. The article also talks about the epigraph of the work, which fully reflects the main meaning of the novel.

Keywords: hero, eternal themes, good and evil, idea, epigraph.

The novel «The Master and Margarita» is a unique work of the famous Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov. The work was written by the writer for 12 years. The novel was published in an abridged magazine version in 1966, 26 years after the death of Mikhail Bulgakov. According to the genre, the novel is a fantastic, historical and satirical work. According to V. Lakshin, in the novel «... the author freely combines the incompatible: history and feuilleton, lyrics and myth, everyday life and fantasy, - creates some difficulties in determining the genre of this book. It could probably be called a comic epic, a satirical utopia, or something else... In The Master and Margarita, Bulgakov found the form most adequate to his original talent, and because much that we find separately in other things of the author, as it were merged into one» [2].

In the novel «The Master and Margarita» the author raises several eternal themes. Throughout the novel, good and evil are constantly in confrontation, although the basis of the novel is the theme of love. Even the title of the novel confirms the superiority of love over all the issues raised in the novel. The strength of the love of the Master and Margarita can be seen in the continuation of the entire novel. This can be seen from the words of the Master, in which he describes it (love) in the work: "Love jumped out in front of us, like a murderer jumps out of the ground in an alley, and hit us both at once!" Love in the novel takes on additional meanings. For the sake of love, for the sake of the Master, Margarita went through many difficult trials, the sinlessness of which she did not doubt. She leaves her ex-husband, lives in a dilapidated house on the Old Arbat with the Master, agrees to be the queen of Satan's ball. The master also reciprocates in turn. Margarita becomes a muse for him, and the Master dedicates his book to her.

The next main theme in the novel is the connection between good and evil. Good is personified in the image of Yeshua, Woland, and evil - the Devil and other heroes. But the complementarity of good and evil is most fully embodied in the words of Woland, addressed to Levi Matthew, who refused to regret his health: «You spoke your words as if you did not recognize shadows, as well as evil». Woland is described by Bulgakov as follows: «He was in an expensive gray suit, in foreign shoes, in the color of the suit ... He looked to be over forty years old ... the right eye was black, the left one was green for

some reason. The eyebrows are black, but one is higher than the other» [1, p. 242]. The purpose of his visit is to look at the inhabitants of the city, he wanted to see if humanity has changed over the centuries. In turn, he wanted to punish people for their vices. Woland really wanted evil, but nobility and honesty are characteristic of him; and sometimes, willingly or unwittingly, he completes good deeds. In general, he punishes only negative heroes (bureaucrats, people who find themselves in positions, drunkards and fools).

He helps the Master and Margarita in everything and gives them eternal peace.

Along with the themes of love, good and evil, there is a theme of creativity in the novel. The Master's talent is proved by the novel he wrote about Pontius Pilate. In order to fulfill his will, to create his own novel, the Master had to go through many trials. His beloved Margarita helps him in this. The love of the heroine saves not only the Master, but also his work. Here we can see that strong love that is intertwined with all the main themes of the novel.

The main role in the novel is played by the epigraph: «... so who are you, finally? "I am part of that force that always wants evil and always does good" [1, p. 239.], cited from the novel "Faust" by a famous German writer, indicates the main idea of the novel. The words of this epigraph can be fully attributed to the main character of Woland's novel. According to Melnikova A. "...the meaning of the epigraph can be only one: the devil (Mephistopheles, Woland or some "power" of which they are a part) wants evil. But he cannot go beyond what is permitted from above, and, thinking that he acts of his own free will, he only serves as an instrument of Divine Providence – he involuntarily does good»[3].

The encounter with Woland changed for good the personality of Bezdomny, Likhodeev, Bengalsky, and Varenuhka. Woland punished them for all the sins they had committed, and they repented. Having punished the unjust, Woland, in turn, rewards the Master and Margarita, i.e. supporters of goodness and a bright beginning. «And the most important proof: Margarita's soul did not die, because at the cost of her own death the heroine was going to buy the salvation of another person – the Master»[3].

Thus, in his unique novel *The Master and Margarita*, Mikhail Bulgakov raises a number of eternal problems that concern mankind at all times - the theme of good and evil, love, creativity, courage and cowardice, etc. All these topics, intertwined with each other, reveal the main idea of the novel: the definition of the concepts of good and evil and the struggle between them. According to the author, good and evil are on an equal footing both in nature and in human hearts. This explains the appearance of Woland, as the concentration of evil by definition, and Yeshua, who believed in natural human kindness. Light and darkness are closely intertwined, constantly interacting with each other, and it is no longer possible to draw clear boundaries.

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