

The Evolution of Pierre Bezukhov in the Novel "War and Peace"

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the author considers issues related to the influence of the environment and the inner worldview of Pierre Bezukhov, which will lead one of the main characters of the novel "War and Peace" to the search for the real meaning of life. The author points to the evolution of the protagonist, who at the end of the novel will find answers to many questions that arose during the description of the main stages of his life.

Count Kirill Bezukhov spent time with a commoner, and the little boy Pierre became the result of such dates. From the point of view of the law, this was unacceptable (in tsarist Russia there was a rigid class system and there was practically no social lift), but in practice it happened, and often. Therefore, from birth, Pierre Bezukhov found himself in a somewhat ambivalent position: on the one hand, he was the son of a wealthy count, and on the other, he had neither a title nor an official father.

The attitude towards Pierre in secular society was appropriate. All members of the elite understood that this was the beloved son of Count Bezukhov, whom the latter was actively involved in (tried to achieve the title of count, gave education, spent enough time, sent abroad). But at the same time, they knew that Pierre Bezukhov would never be their equal. In addition, when Pierre found himself in society, it became noticeable that he was a stranger. He did not know most manners, was not in the least embarrassed by defiant behavior and did not consider it necessary to observe decorum. The people around did not like it, but no one dared to say this in person to the heir of Count Bezukhov.

Pierre's position changed after his father died. Kirill Bezukhov wrote a letter to the emperor asking him to recognize his illegitimate son after his death and to transfer the title of count to him. Alexander I, out of respect for the elder Bezukhov, complied with his request. Since Pierre received an inheritance and became a count himself, society began to treat him much more tolerantly, although behind his back they continued to consider him a stranger.

How does the hero of the novel develop?

It is curious that in order to create the image of Pierre Bezukhov, L.N.Tolstoy used real

prototypes (the image eventually turned out to be collective). The prototypes were the Decembrists, who in 1825 attempted an uprising against the authorities, but were suppressed. These were educated and progressive people who understood that if tsarist Russia continued to move along the same course, it would collapse. This is exactly what happened, by the way, in less than 100 years - but at the beginning of the 19th century no one thought about it.

Pierre Bezukhov at the beginning of the novel was not accepted by society and did not even have money. Having received a huge inheritance, he treated it lightly - he walked, drank, spent time with women and enjoyed his sudden position. At the same time, he had a brilliant education received in Europe, and progressive views on life - which came from there.

Because of the irresponsible attitude to life, Pierre begins to make mistakes. One of the most significant was the marriage with Helen Kuragina, a very beautiful but stupid girl. Pierre does not marry of his own free will, and later breaks up with his wife because of her infidelity and frivolity. It is after these events that Bezukhov begins to grow up and think about finding true love.

Gradually, Pierre leaves a wild lifestyle and begins to think about how to use his social position and available resources to good use.

Gradually, Pierre leaves a wild lifestyle and begins to think about how to use his social position and available resources to good use. He becomes interested in the Masonic movement and joins a lodge. The ideas of reforms that would improve the life of the population seem to him sensible and fair. Bezukhov tries to implement them on his estates, but fails, since he knows practically nothing about how to run a household and manage a large property. Gradually, he abandons his reform activities.

Pierre Bezukhov also participated in the Patriotic War of 1812. He looks ridiculous in his white hat, and he often gets lost on the battlefield - although you can't call him a coward. After the Battle of Borodino, he, wounded, goes to Moscow. Unlike Andrei Bolkonsky, he does not strive for military glory and does not perform feats - his presence on the battlefield is more noticeable for its absurdity. In Moscow occupied by the French, Pierre's mind was clouded. He began to believe that his real mission in life was to kill Napoleon. Bezukhov enters the captured city, changes into peasant clothes (so that the French do not recognize him and understand that he is a count) and goes in search of Napoleon.

Along the way, Pierre, even in a somewhat unstable state, demonstrates his infinite kindness and unselfishness. He helps ordinary Russian people in trouble, and even communicates for some time with a French officer who has become as hostage to the situation as Bezukhov himself.

But the real turning point for Pierre comes when he is captured by the French. Of course, he fails to kill Napoleon. In captivity, Bezukhov meets a simple Russian peasant - Platon Karataev. Plato says that he went to war in order to save his brother and his family. Karataev treats everyone around him very kindly and humbly accepts his fate. His openness greatly affects Pierre - he learns to love life and all its manifestations. The philosophy of Platon Karataev helped Bezukhov to come to his senses and find a new meaning in life.

After the prisoners were released (the French shot Karataev earlier, since he was too weak), Pierre Bezukhov found out about the death of his best friend, Andrei Bolkonsky. This loss greatly upset him, but did not break him. He consoled Natasha Rostova and tried to encourage her, as he was in love with the girl. When Pierre found out that his feelings were mutual, he proposed to Natasha. They got married the very next year after World War II ended. In the epilogue, L. N. Tolstoy said that their marriage turned out to be very harmonious (unlike the union of Pierre and Helen), Natasha took care of her husband and bore him four children, and Pierre was infinitely happy.

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