

**Review, connected to the competition for
the academic position "Associate Professor"
in the professional field 2.1. Philology**

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Moris Fadel,

New Bulgarian University

The research work of Dr. Mariya Ogoyska - candidate for the academic title "Associate Professor" in Philology - is concentrated in the field of the relationship between religion and literature. This relationship is traditional for literary studies; it has been investigated by many authors. At the same time, however, a small amount of studies investigate it avoiding the clichés and the accumulated stereotypes. This is not the case of Maria Mariya Ogoyska's work. Dr. Ogoyska approaches literary heritage as a person who knows thoroughly the Christian theology. For her, literature and religion are spheres whose interaction can hardly be contained in schemes, in a theory of a traditional type. That is why Dr. Ogoyska avoids generalizations. Each work analyzed by her builds its own relationship with religion.

This feature is demonstrated in Ogoyska's habilitation thesis entitled "Readings on the Christian spirit of Bulgarian literature". The work includes interpretations of works of the Bulgarian literature from the Bulgarian National Revival to the present. M. Ogoyska carefully avoids generalizations, typologies, synthesizing concepts. In Ogoyska's approach the religious moment in the literary work does not harm or change its literary specificity. The idea that the literariness of the text is violated when another, non-literary field intervenes is challenged. M. Ogoyska's understanding is that religion rather emphasizes and even unlocks the literary characteristic of the work. The attitude

towards the religion, shared by M. Ogoyska's book, is not thematic or hierarchical to the philological, linguistic and literary side of the text, but it is combined with it.

Apart from being a researcher, Maria Ogoyska is also a dedicated lecturer who is preferred by the students. As a supervisor of term papers and bachelor's and master's theses, she tries to help students in their intellectual growth. M. Ogoyska is also a successful program director of the New Bulgarian Studies Department, combining research and teaching activities with the difficulties of administering the educational process.

I appeal to the respected scientific jury to choose Dr. Mariya Ogoyska for "Associate Professor" in the professional field 2.1. Philology.

13. 02, 2021

M. Fadel