

REVIEW

by Prof. Antoniya Velkova-Gaydardzhieva, PhD, Veliko Tarnovo University "St. Cyril and St. Methodius", area of higher education 2. Humanities, area of professional specialization 2.1. Philology (History of Bulgarian literature from Liberation Day to World War I and History of Bulgarian literary criticism),

member of the jury for granting the academic position

Associate Professor

in the area of professional specialization 2.1. Philology, Department of

New Bulgarian Studies, announced in SG, issue. 89/16. 10. 2020 with sole candidate Mariya Vasileva Ogoyska, PhD

Mariya Ogoyska's habilitation thesis entitled "Readings on the Christian Spirit of Bulgarian Literature" is among the rare attempts in Bulgarian artistic and receptive culture to read classical or not so canonized works of national literature through the optics of the religious-spiritual and the Orthodox-Christian.

Although the object of her analytical-interpretative observations is extremely different works in ideological-thematic, genre-poetological, worldview-handwriting, the author discusses them in the field of Christian Orthodox culture. In order to see that from "Hristomatia" of Neophyte Rilski to "Poems" ("Poemi") by Konstantin Pavlov, from P. Slaveykov's anthological mystification "On the Island of the Blessed" to the postmodern novel by Yana Bukova "Journey in the direction of the shadow", from the poem "Transfiguration" by Em. Popdimitrov to K. Petkanov's "Notebook" in fact Bulgarian literature looks up and seeks its origin there.

At first glance, looking like a collection of texts written on different occasions and times, in fact M. Ogoyska's book has its own deeply thought-out conceptual framework and critical-reflexive plot - it leads us through the existential foundations of the Christian spirit in Bulgarian literature.

Using other hermeneutic tools, of theosophical and spiritual-ritual order, the researcher reveals on an interpretive level the liturgical rhythm of a number of works of native art.

M. Ogoyska's book, literary and theological, interpretatively and convincingly suggests that the Christian-inspired word of Bulgarian literature is not in exile, it is not in the "corner". It is heard in a number of her works from the Middle Ages to postmodernity, to beg for deliverance from earthly suffering, but also to dedicate oneself to heavenly grace.

I know M. Ogoyska, PhD primarily as an author of books, articles, reports that present non-traditional, different, but very insightful views on a number of classical or underestimated works of Bulgarian literature. I believe that research, i.e. the author's "new readings" are another, much-needed "voice" in our contemporary literary studies. Because Orthodoxy in Bulgarian literature is its essential feature.

Conclusion: I appeal to the respected scientific jury to choose Mariya Vasileva Ogoyska, PhD for "Associate Professor" in the professional field 2.1. Philology, Department of New Bulgarian Studies and, accordingly, to be elected by the Academic Council of NBU.

February 15, 2021

Prof. Antoniya Velkova-Gaydardzhieva, Phd