

ESCHATOLOGICAL MOTIVES IN THE SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL BY A. GOROKHOV “THE RELIANCE HERO”

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the study of A. A. Gorokhov's novel “The Reluctant Hero”. The material examines the eschatological motifs identified in the novel. An analysis of the symbiosis of science fiction and Christian eschatological thought in the plot of the work is carried out.

Keywords: eschatology, apocalypse, novel, Christianity, science fiction, post-apocalypse

ЭСХАТОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ МОТИВЫ В НАУЧНО-ФАНТАСТИЧЕСКОМ РОМАНЕ А. ГОРОХОВА «ГЕРОЙ ПОНЕВОЛЕ»

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Аннотация

статья посвящена исследованию романа А. А. Горохова «Герой поневоле». В материале рассматриваются эсхатологические мотивы, выявленные в романе. Проводится анализ симбиоза научно-фантастической и христианской эсхатологической мысли в сюжете произведения.

Ключевые слова: эсхатология, апокалипсис, роман, христианство, научная фантастика, постапокалипсис

INTRODUCTION

The 21st century, distinguished by a sharp leap in scientific and technological progress, became a period of heyday of apocalyptic sentiments and eschatological expectations. The development of new types of weapons, the development of atomic and nuclear technologies, and the tense geopolitical situation contribute to the growing feeling of the threat of world war, which is reflected in the modern literary process.

Eschatology (from the Greek ἔσχατος – last, final) is the doctrine of the end of the world and man [1, p.1]. Eschatological expectations are present in many cultures and have their roots in ancient times. It was they who became the basis for the formation of a special genre of literature - apocalyptic literature. In the 20th century, literature is filled with a large number of apocalyptic images. In the 21st century, a “post-apocalyptic boom” is taking place. The theme of the apocalypse and possible consequences is becoming extremely relevant in modern literary discourse.

Science fiction XXI occupies a leading position in the number of post-apocalyptic novels. In relation to science fiction, the term “post-apocalypse” was first used by the American critic Alan Frank in 1978 in the magazine Sci-FiNow [3, p.16]. One of the features of this genre is the eschatological motif as the main dominant feature of the work.

In modern science fiction literature, the theme of the apocalypse has become more relevant than ever. The catastrophic worldview and awareness of human finality inherent in the society of the 20th century became a prerequisite for the development and actualization of this topic in the literature of the 21st century [2, p. 172].

Another trend in works of science fiction literature was the development of eschatological religious thought through the prism of a scientific view.

As an example, we can consider the novel “The Reluctant Hero” by the modern Russian-speaking writer of Uzbekistan A. Gorokhov. We believe that in this work the symbiosis of science fiction and religious eschatological thought is quite clearly manifested.

The plot is based on the intervention of the forces of Good and Evil in the lives of people on Earth. The confrontation between these forces is the basis of any eschatological plot. In the novel, this intervention occurs through technological progress. This process, as conceived by the author, is a consequence of the intervention of higher powers, which thus transfer to man the knowledge of the “chosen ones”.

The dominant theme of the work is the motif of the apocalypse. The theme of the “end of times” is clearly manifested in one of the characteristic episodes of the work, in which a battle between the forces of Darkness and Light (Angels and Demons) takes place. At the same time, people have a key role in influencing events occurring on Earth.

The novel clearly shows the author's message to the readers, which raises the question of the ontological significance of the events taking place in the world. The confrontation between strong and dominant states in the world political and economic arena, the death of traditional culture, the transformation of the geopolitical picture of the world - all this is presented in apocalyptic images and colored with an eschatological mood.

The image system is also associated with eschatological expectation. The novel presents images of Angels that can be found in Christian literature. An important role is also played by the image of the main character, who is characterized by a feeling of isolation, and, as the plot develops, chosenness. Which also refers to the format of religious eschatological thought:

“The angel looked impressive: in white armor, with a sword and long golden hair, he looked like a white knight from medieval romances.

“Man,” he turned to Gleb, “you have the honor of serving the forces of good.” – His voice boomed. “In this difficult time, you have had this honor...”

The storyline of the novel also traces religious eschatology. The climax - the struggle of Angels with Demons, the struggle of the chosen one with the Antichrist, refers to religious eschatological thought:

“...only the souls and the Black Angels remained standing, which Gleb did not distinguish at first. Noticing the White Angels, they immediately took out their swords and rushed to the attack...”

The specificity of the eschatological motif in the work under study is not limited to describing exclusively the “last times” or the expectation of the “end of the world.” The novel also contains

a motif of private eschatology - the idea of the finitude of a person's physical life and his "existence" after it. The author reveals this through the image of the main character, who dies, exists in the metaphysical world and "resurrects" again in a physical body.

The most interesting thing, in our opinion, is that religious thought, manifested in the eschatological motif, is inextricably intertwined with the scientific fantasy of the author. The eschatological motif in the novel "The Reluctant Hero" represents a unique symbiosis of religious and scientific thought, which results in a general idea of the development of mankind and its possible "outcome".

It is also worth noting that the motif of the end of the world in the work is not fatal. The author considers the idea of the end of human history from the perspective of the choice that man himself makes, the choice of a society that has preserved hope into the possible renewal and "restoration" of humanity, into the victory of God's plan for human freedom of choice:

"A person should have freedom of choice. What's the point of a good deed if it's done under pressure?"

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