
THE PROBLEM OF THE DISCORD BETWEEN DREAMS AND REALITY IN T. TOLSTAYA'S STORIES

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ABSTRACT: The purpose of this article is to analyze the problem of the discord between dreams and reality in the short prose of Tatyana Tolstaya. The object of the study is the short stories "Sonya" and "The Okkerville river".

KEYWORDS: Tatiana Tolstaya, small prose, short stories, "Sonya", "Okkervil river", Sonya, Simeonov, Ada, dream, reality.

INTRODUCTION

Tatyana Nikitichna Tolstaya is a novelist, essayist, whose literary activity began in the 1980s. Widespread fame brought her first book of short stories "On the Golden Porch Sat" (1987), which included the stories "Date with a Bird" (1983), "Sonya" (1984), "Clean Sheet" (1984), "You Love - You Don't Love" (1984), "Okkervil River" (1985), "Mammoth Hunt" (1985), "Peters" (1986), "Sleep Easy, Son" (1986), "Fire and Dust" (1986), "The Most Favorite" (1986), "The Poet and the Muse" (1986), "Seraphim" (1986), "The Month Came Out of the Fog" (1987), "Night" (1987), "Flame of Heaven" (1987), "Somnambula in the Fog" (1988), "Sweet Shura" (1985), "Fakir" (1986), "Circle" (1987).

Often in the works of Tatyana Tolstaya the theme of the discord between dreams and reality is raised. In the story "Sonya" the author shows us the image of a girl named Sonya. Already by the very title of the story you can guess about whom it will be about. At first the image of a slow person, sleeping "in one shoe", lagging behind in life or just loving to lie around, comes to mind. Tatyana Tolstaya's Sonya is partly a child, children love her, and she is close to them by her naivety and kind soul: "She loved children, it is clear, and you could go on vacation, even to Kislovodsk, and leave the children and the apartment for her - stay with us for now, Sonya, okay? - and, returning, to find everything in perfect order: and dust wiped, and the children ruddy, fed, walked every day and even went on an excursion to the museum" [1, 112]. Sonya herself is unattractive outwardly, but possessing excessive mental kindness. The antipode of Sonya is Ada, by the name of the heroine can already be understood that Ada is the complete opposite of the protagonist - evil and indifferent. Tolstaya describes her appearance as "snake-like": a chiseled figure, elegant,

swarthy face. In any situation, Ada remained a charmer in the company, men were crazy about her. It happened that because of Sonya's "stupidity" Ada got into a ridiculous situation, and wanting to teach her friend a lesson, she came up with a plan of revenge: to invent an admirer Nikolai - a fictional admirer of Sonya. "Man" was married and had three children, and was madly in love with Sonya. Ada began to write letters on behalf of the admirer and laugh at Sonya's feelings. Sonia believed the legend and fell in love with Ada's fantasy. Soon all those who supported Ada's revenge cooled down, but the evil friend decided not to abandon what she had started. The war began and none of the heroines had time to leave the city. Ada was left alone, lost all her loved ones, went mad with hunger. She burned all Sonia's letters to keep warm. Sonya became Ada's unwitting savior, the girl took Ada's skinny, black from exhaustion body for Nicholas, gave her "lover" tomato juice, thus preventing her friend from dying. To learn the truth Sonya was not presented, as, going out into the street, the girl was killed by shrapnel of a burst bomb. The dream "Nikolai" became a lifeline for Sonya, giving her the strength to survive the long hungry months and die with a feeling of happiness in her heart - she, the ugly Sonya, was loved. The protagonist of the story "The Okkerville River" - Simeonov: an anchoress, a hermit all his life engaged in collecting records with records of the forgotten, and, as it seems to him, long dead singer Vera Vasilyevna, whose image in detail created by his imagination. Simonov is in love with the fantastic Vera Vasilyevna. Every evening he leads at the gramophone, as old as the heroine of his fantasy. With his romances he spoils his imagination, longs for a life he has never known, for a woman - a languid naiad of the beginning of the century. Then it turns out that she is alive, and, trembling, Simeonov goes to meet her, expecting to see a miserable, penniless old woman living out her life in all sorts of desolation. But it turns out that Vera Vasilyevna is prosperous, enjoying life, the attention of dozens of enthusiasts who call her Verunchik, and drink and snack is not a fool. And suddenly it turns out that she - the object of love - is alive, moreover, lives somewhere near, that she is not blind, poor gaunt and hoarse, as Simeonov wanted, huge, white, black-browed, rolling laughing. Besides, she still had her marvelous voice. The only thing she is not satisfied with is that her apartment has a bad bathtub, and she decides to use Simeonov by using his bathroom. This is arranged by the quickest of her admirers, a certain Potseluev. After reading "Sonya" one gets the idea that dreaming is not so bad, that dreams give people faith, but after analyzing the story "The Okkervil River" one can understand that dreams can ruin a person, not letting him see the true love very close to him - Tamara. The point is how exactly one perceives the dream: as Simeonov, seeing nothing around him, dreaming of one woman with a marvelous voice, or living like Sonya - fighting for his dream, seeing in it the meaning of existence. If Sonya had learned the truth, she would have killed her, and the reality Simeonov faced saved him.

REFERENCES

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