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THE SYMBOL OF BIRD IN THREE NOVELS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH BY VIDOE PODGORETS

Abstract: *The bird as a symbol and motive is as old as mankind. They are perceived as messengers of the Gods, a symbol of immortality, and as predictors of future events. With the freedom of their flight, the birds embody the symbolism that makes us desire to move towards the heights and experience the feeling of immense freedom of our body and soul. Birds are a metaphor of departure, change, but also adaptation, flexibility. Vidoe Podgorets is one of those authors who "identifies nature with art" and the bird serves as a part of that nature as a motive and symbol through which he will convey his vision and understanding of life and everything that is happening around him and pass his moral message on to us. This symbolism will be the subject of study in this paper. In particular, the symbol of the bird in three works of Vidoe Podgorets intended for young readers will be discussed and considered.*

Key words: *symbol, birds, prose, Vidoe Podgorets.*

1. Introduction

The bird as a symbol and motive is as old as mankind. This symbolism will be the subject of study in this paper. From flying as a link between the earth and the sky, the birds were often an illustration of the journey of the soul and the return to Heaven's homeland. They are considered messengers of the Gods, a symbol of immortality, and as predictors of future events. With the freedom of their flight, the birds embody the symbolism that makes us desire to move towards the heights and experience the feeling of immense freedom of our body and soul. More often than not, do we find ourselves observing them in our hearts as we fly in elegant bows. The beauty of the birds while flying raises us above our own existence and makes us long for wings, thus we want to follow our path, to fly aligned with them, to let our body flow through the endless distances, to leave our old life to reach our goal. With every wing stroke, the longing of the soul grows in us, it sings our song about distance, beauty and love. And to the extent that the song sounds stronger and clearer, the more the boundaries of our existence become clearer, and the desire to turn to something new and interesting, to turn to the soul bird

in us, to turn to the like-minded people and group themselves together. Birds are a metaphor of departure, change, but also adaptation, flexibility. They are symbols, and they are really here. Around us. With us and in our books also.

2. Vidoe Podgorets and his original written word

Vidoe Podgorets is one of those authors who "identifies nature with art" and the bird serves as a part of that nature as a motive and symbol through which he will convey his vision and understanding of life and everything that is happening around him and what as moral a message wants to be passed on to us (Идризовиќ, 1988: 241). By the authenticity of the institution, the diversity of his life and spaciousness of the work, Podgorets is seen as a unique phenomenon not only in Macedonian literature" and beyond (Идризовиќ, 1988: 237). Taking into account that he created an enormous number of works filled with poetry, prose, travelogue, criticism and stories, this is what makes him Olympus in the literary scene. All that this prolific writer of children literature wrote, even when it is not exceptional and innovative, it captures by the manner of communication, the intensity of the fable, the cultivated language and style, and, ultimately, the emotionality of the word, the verse, the sentence ... (Друговац, 1975: 143). The volume and the number of his works amazes and fascinates. Arouses admiration that relevant library, a genre varied, aesthetic and pedagogical, from which the reader learns a lot about their own national historical past and the living transformations in modernity, with many human dramas and a number of children's dilemmas, joys and pains that fill the books of this humanist (Друговац, 1996: 303). The anxiety of this creator and engagement with life seem to have no boundaries. He is an artist who has shown that inspiration does not diminish in our time and that with new achievements he showed a rich and original talent. The work of Vidoe Podgorets is a confirmation of the primeval bond of man for the soil, his devotion to humanism and the ideals of freedom (Идризовиќ, 1988: 237). The prose of Vidoe Podgorets is a lavish treasure of themes and motifs expressed through numerous collections of short stories and novels (Цацков, 1997:143). Through several decades of work, he has succeeded in creating an enormous number of friends and supporters of his work, to initiate many researches and studies on the topics and motives included in his books and to encourage many papers that try to explain the symbolism in them, to find the meaning and to make conclusions.

The narrative process of Podgorets is the result of a profound personal experience of the author, a work of a creative spirit that perpetually perfectionates this important aspect of his work. As a connoisseur of our country life and of our people's life, Podgorets is passionate about the

nature, the man in it, the child in it, the child in nature, his pets - the animals, the beauty of his native region. The deep knowledge of the child's world enables the author to penetrate into it, to create his literature according to the measure of that world, but also to enrich and spread that world's horizons (Мицковиќ, 1987: 9-29). Humans, ever since prehistoric times, have associated themselves with animals. One hunted and trampled the animals to survive then. This fateful relationship between humans and animals has their early association as an important inspiration and preoccupation (Ристановиќ, 2010: 48-49). The animals have always had their place in literature. Animality in children's literature is one of the more frequent topics (Денкова, 2016: 163). Podgorets constantly paints nature in his works, respects animals, birds, insects, and makes us discover the deep meaning and symbolism of his words.

3. The symbol of the bird as a general motive

The bird as a symbol and motive is as old as mankind. Even the Bible itself is filled with many allusions to birds and birdlife. Among the celestial birds, the swan, the eagle, the wolf, are the most common motifs. From the details of the bird-related motifs, the wings, the bird's flight, and the singing of the birds are the most thematic. Bird singing is like exalting the human soul, so the Slavic ornithological symbolism of the bird is of no surprise, the motives associated with the notion of birds represent the human soul, its fragility, tenderness and transparency. According to the Dictionary of Symbols, flying predetermines birds to be a symbol of the connections between heaven and earth (Шевалие, Гербран, 2005: 831). The symbolism of the bird in different religions and different nations is different. In Egypt, however, the bird with a head of a man or a woman symbolizes the soul of the deceased or the soul of the God who visits the land. Thus, the Book of the Dead describes death as a flying falcon, and in Mesopotamia they imagine the dead as birds. In this way, the bird is a symbol of immortality, a symbol of the heavenly world. If something bad was done to a bird, in some parts of Africa it was considered an act of real or metaphorical murder of a real person. From African art and from bird-like masks, as a symbol of strength and life, through Homer's ornithomanism, we come across interpretations of the bird's flight as a flag of the outcome of major events or an imitation of the bird's flight in the shamanistic rituals emphasizing liberation from the earthly gravity and convergence in a higher state of life, - they represent a powerful and omnipresent symbol. In dreams, the symbol is the dreamers, in Feng Shui the symbols are the inspiration and renewal, dictionaries of symbols are abundant with bird species. Some prehistoric drawings of human-birds found in the caves of Altamira and Lascaux represent the flight of a soul or a shaman's flight. In Islam, the birds represent angels, according to the Quran, the language of

birds is the language of angels. Also, in the Quran, the word "bird" is often considered a synonym of "fate". In the Celtic mythology too, the birds were considered messengers of the Gods. In some Vedic texts, the image of the birds reflects the belief of the Gods' affection for humans. Probably, all these understandings arise from an older myth: on the prehistoric monuments in Europe and Asia, the cosmic tree is represented by two birds on the branches, and beyond their cosmic significance. It seems that these two birds symbolize the soul of the ancestors (Шевалие, Гербран 2005: 833). The bird as a symbol and motif in literature appears since the time of the symbolists, to Charles Baudelaire, Edgar Allan Poe, then to Harper Lee, Adam Brooks, Vida Ognjenovič, Jesi Kosinski and other authors who cherished this symbol, who through it reflected their emotional waves, thoughts and messages.

4. The symbol of the bird in part of the work of Vidoe Podgorets

Vidoe Podgorets is one of those authors who "identifies nature with art" (Идризовиќ, 1988: 241) and the bird as part of that nature serves as a motive and symbol through which he will convey his vision and understanding of life and everything that is happening around him. In most of his books, the birds are represented, he describes them, admires them, through them transfers our perceptions and experiences of life, conveys their moral messages and tries to reach to the reader. It makes us think, makes us understand its thought, read it and memorize it, understand it.

The novel "Prokudeni ptici" ("Banished birds") shows the fate of children and Petar and Vasko affected by the storm of World War II. "These are children, rightly said, without childhood, it is a barefoot, hungry, frightened, but also a brave war childhood without childhood, with whose projection, Podgorets gave us, in twenty-two chapters, naming each one separately, in order to get an image of a series of related stories, a series of solidly connected episodes in an unbreakable whole" (Друговац, 1996: 317). The topic is not new and unknown. This is a story about Vasko and Petar, partisan fighters, martyrs patriots, and this is a story-legacy to the generations of children and adults to remember. Through the fate of these boys and the fate of everyone in the village, Podgorets actually captures the sufferings and horrors of people covered by the whirlwind of war and at one point, wrote: "Men, women and children as driven birds abandoned their nests, fleeing before the black claws of fear" (Подгорец, 1969:). In this sentence, the entire symbolism of the title of the novel is woven, dedicated to all those whom the war has banished, fleeing from the occupier like "leavened birds", fly from their native stove, fearing for their lives and the lives of their loved ones. The symbolism of

the broken / abandoned nest that leaves the leaking birds directly relates to the belief given in the ancient Upanishads for birds migrating, which is related to the belief that the soul moves from body to body, until the last flight to the nest in which it finally finds shelter from the dangers of migration (Шевалие, Гербран, 2005: 832). Through the words of the miller Geran, addressing Vasko and Petar, we can understand what Podgorets instructed us to understand: "You are no longer children. In front of my eyes, for a few days alone, misery has made you mature prematurely. The nest of your childhood has blown up, it was destroyed by the storm of war, and now you are birds, who have to learn how to fly and to navigate. You passed this terrible test, you grew up ... "But Podgorets does not forget to show us that among them revolt is born and those" birds "fly away into the mountains and organize in the" flock "and are back together, and the youngest and oldest, to attack and regain the forcibly taken "nest". The symbolic is that every bird, wherever it flies in the infinite heavenly space, always returns to its nest, fighting for it. At another place in the novel, we meet the bird as a symbol again, when Petar, the courier, will be sent to a secret mission in the city, using this sentence as a password: "Grandpa, do you sell cages with birds in them?" Where Podgorets symbolically alludes to the cage as a symbol of the deprived freedom, and in the continuation of the password, follows the question "What happened to the pigeons?" which alludes to an already known symbol, dove - a symbol of peace, of freedom, which is so desired by the actors of the action in the novel.

The war will again be the cause of the displacement and destruction of childhood and the early maturity in the novel „Letot na belata gulabica” ("The flight of the white dove"). Podgorets interestingly presents the fate of Jewish boy Solomon Levy, who fleeing from the Nazi persecution of Barcelona, along with his family, will stand in the fields and meadows along the river Vardar and will try to find himself. Once again, Podgorets will insert the bird as a symbol and through the story of old grandfather Juan from Barcelona for the "beautiful and shrewd" white dove - a protector and helper of the poor. The dove as a symbol of beauty, and peace cannot be left to help and make the sufferers happy, because "the good virtues don't live long among people" (Подгорец, 1982: 39). She will be killed by those who envy the weaker, the poorer, and do not allow them to have even a little comfort. Throughout the entire contents of the novel, Podgorets will insert the symbolism of the white dove as a bright spot, a hope for comfort and kindness for the burdened Levi family. When Lenche comes to his home, Moni believes that "she had hopefully brought her a white dove" (Подгорец, 1982: 60). At times, he identifies the girl with the dove and believes that she is a savior and he rejoices when they spend a long time together and can't believe that "he has never been so close to the white

dove, the chosen one of his heart" (Подгорец, 1982: 78). That beautiful girl helps him in the most difficult moments of the Levy family carrying food to them, and, not surprisingly, Solomon at some point "recalls the story of the old fisherman grandfather Juan from Barcelona before his eyes widened delicate wings of the blanca colombino. Oh, white dove, the fortunes of the poor Barcelona fishermen! Is this not the one that was here just a little while ago, is it not my own white dove, the one of our happiness? She did not fill our boat with fish, but that's why she brought us some flour, beans, or fat every day so that we don't feel the misery of the occupation. From now on, I will also call you, Lenche: blanca colombino! The white dove of my happiness! (Подгорец, 1982: 116). Solomon does not have the courage to share the depth of his love with the "white dove of his life" and passed on those feelings in a notebook, by writing a letter in which he will sincerely open himself, talk about the fear of the consequences of the war, as that thought follows him as "his own shadow," but he realizes that he cannot help himself. He writes about the "explosion" in his soul after "every meeting with you" but "the feeling that you are not indifferent to me brings me an endless warmth into my chest, a miraculous trembling, a sweet unrest that cannot be explained in words, because even for the most terrible things that happen in our lives one can find words, but for this - not " (Подгорец, 1982: 131-132). In an impressive and powerful way he conveys his suffering as a foreigner and an intruder who wanders around the world and who, finally, felt that in Skopje he had "brothers and fatherland". He explains to his "white dove on her sleeplessness" that he is not ashamed of his love and thinks about her even when the prisons are filled with their comrades and says that it is stronger than him and is incapable of "taming his own volcanoes which boil my blood and shake my soul with the dearest explosions " (Подгорец, 1982: 133). Podgorets, in a symbolically masterly manner, at that moment, will insert the struggle of the abuser - and the throat - the peaceful man, and offer solace to Solomon to understand that: "Behold, there are wars in the birds. There are thugs among them too! The scoundrel failed to grab the peaceful throat, but he would not give up his robbery. She'll wait another convenient moment to attack her". Eventually, he will understand the meaning of life: "So, all those who bring some benefit to the people, even with their silent songs, are always under attack by the perpetrators! Oh, why is that so? Did the white dove do something evil to the rich fishermen, so they shot her? Are Envy and Evil Rejected in the World? Will mankind ever get rid of those vices? Will a man once and for all cleanse his soul from the darkness? "And finally, at the end of the novel, when Solomon falls from a bullet that pierces his chest "in that short interval between the last breaths of life and the eternal stiffness that brought death, he silently spoke to someone's ear only a few words: "The flight of the white dove ...it succeeded ..." Here, Podgorets helps us

understand the essence of symbolism that the white dove is saved, the sacrifice is Solomon, but she remains alive and in the future will continue to help the poor. Through the whole Judeo-Christian symbolic dove, which in the New covenant represents the Holy Spirit, is essentially a symbol of purity and simplicity. It is a symbol of peace, hope, of the found happiness. At the same time, the Dictionary of Symbols gives another interpretation of the symbol of the dove, and it represents what is immortal in man - the soul. It is clear that reason for all this symbolism is the beauty and grace of this bird, its unblemished whiteness, the gentleness of its whipping. In fact, regardless of whether it is a plain or literary language, the term dove is among the most universal metaphors that praise the woman (Шевалие, Гербран, 2005: 220).

“Otide so žravite” (“He went with the cranes”) is a small booklet in which, through the fifteen short stories, Podgorets returns to childhood, describes the hidden corners of the child's soul, affected by the horrors of war, the deep suffering caused by it, the trembling and fear of a devastated and stolen childhood. In the eponymous story, through the symbolism of the cranes that fly through the endless celestial shore and go to distant unknown celestial lands, the little girl explains the departure and non-return of the father who “went with the cranes in the unknown darkness of the autumn night” (Подгорец, 1967: 16). The little girl is waiting for her father to return, constantly looking at his blurry and yellowed picture on the wall and longing to hear the words again: “Little dove, you look like me. More to me ... ” (Подгорец, 1967: 15). In the end: “Time flies. Spring goes into summer, autumn into winter; creating a long hoop for years. I'm no longer a little girl”. However, it remains deeply engraved “in the childish eyes a muddy recollection of a mild unforgettable face with a warm smile. I do not recognize it... And yet, I remember it. Most of all: that dark, rainy autumn night when the cranes were flying above the village and their cries as if proclaiming ill omen”. He realizes that the wind of war took the father away and the conclusion remains: “And one thing was irrefutable for sure: He went with the cranes and did not return.” (Подгорец, 1967: 19). In the Dictionary of Symbols, there are more interpretations for the crane, from which we will refer only to those that are in function of clarifying the symbolism in the indicated work from Podgorets. Namely, in ancient China they connect with the island of immortality, and in fact are Taoist symbols of immortality, which stems from the understanding of the cyclical return of the crane, which symbolizes the renewal. In some German areas, however, the crane has a religious function. Namely, his character is associated with God, who had analogous functions like the God Hermes, and these are travel and communication (Шевалие, Гербран, 2005: 311-312). So, the departure of the father, his unwillingness, and the sound of the cry of the cranes

function as a sort of indulgence, a kind of clue to the future tragic events and the uncertain destiny of the father.

The symbolic description of the nightingale in the narrative „Diviot jorgovan” (“The Wild lilac”), who by making the nest “as if it weaves all its love and care, all its goodness and song in it” and “unselfishly pours out the silver filaments in his voice” and in whose song, the child who is burdened with the thought of the sick mother and the father of the front, the dispersed family nest, - he is able to find comfort. The song of the nightingale - the symbol of the beautiful merry song, along with the thought of the wild lilac, help the boy to forget about his suffering for a moment. Podgorets, introducing these symbolic elements of nature, does not allow the child, despite the fact that the war has stolen his childhood, it will end up with the end of the day, without having a little bit of comfort.

Conclusion

This was an attempt to make a parallel in the works of Podgorets using the thread that connects them - the significance of the symbolism of the birds through which the author himself conveys our thoughts, understandings of life and lessons that we want to learn. Vidoe Podgorets's writing revealed to the children the unusual wealth of his native region, conveyed his colors and sounds, introduced the beauties to children, history, past, people, mostly those who spent the whole life or childhood in nature. His works also describes the writer who understands the literary work with its social and artistic function, which in addition to the beauty, gives a meaning in the formation and development of the young man." (Идризовиќ, 1988: 258).

There is still much to talk and write about Vidoe Podgorets, because it is difficult to tackle everything he wrote in a few pages of any review and be unable to give a complete picture of him, about everything he wrote and created. "His creation is an impressive building that astonishes, a creation that has long overcome the "incredible number" of published titles. The creative records are surpassed here and they represent the incomprehensible boundary for the common mind. Therefore, the work of Vidoe Podgorets can freely be called - the creation of dreams. Spiritual wealth that surpasses even "Balzac's dream" to write hundreds of works. That number he managed to break, becoming a creator with whom the future generations and experts will have to seriously deal with" (Петревски, 1999:141).

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Sažetak: Ptica kao symbol je stara kao i čovečanstvo. Smatralo se da su ptice glasnici bogova, simbol besmrtnosti, kao i predskazivači budućih događaja. Svojim slobodnim letom ptice otlikavaju onu simoliku koja nas tera da poželimo da se usmerimo i da osetimo tu neizmernu slobodu tela i duše. Ptice su i metafora odlazaka, promena, nestabilnosti, ali i prilagođavanju, fleksibilnosti. Video Podgorec je jedan od onih autora koji “poistovečuju prirodu sa umetnošću” i ptica kao deo te prirode služi kao motiv i symbol preko kog će preneti svoje razumevanje života i svega onoga što se dešava oko njega i što želi da nam prenese kao moralnu pouku. Ta simbolika biće predmet proučavanja ovog rada. Konkretno, razmatraće se symbol ptice u tri romana Vidoe Podgorec, koji su namenjeni mladim čitaocima.