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THE IMAGE OF THE RUSSIAN- JAPANESE WAR IN BRYUSOV'S LYRICS

Annotation. *The article is devoted to research of the military subject in Bryusov's lyrics. The special attention is paid to the subject of the war and revolution of the beginning of the XX century and historical events of the period of Russian-Japanese war of 1905 year. In the article is traced the influence of a historical context on figurativeness of the writer, art dominants in his collections and cycles of different years. The special attention is paid to motives and images in the collection «Venok».*

Key words: *historicism, mifologizm, image, subject, motive, poetics.*

I. Introduction

The beginning of the XX century in the fiction literature is marked by the appearance of the themes, which are connected with cardinal changes of the society and their tragic consequences, such as war, revolution, death of people. This particular time was connected with living and creativity of the Russian poet Valery Bryusov. He peered at the reality surrounding and tried to comprehend philosophically it in his lyrics. Since 1900-th years, the poet starts for the first time to respond to the most important events of the present. Russian-Japanese war becomes one of the major subjects in his creativity, defining the new direction of views of the poet of a number of essentially important questions of life and art.

D. Maximov said that «at the beginning V. Bryusov did not understand its adventurous, antinational essence and even welcoming it in his poems, later he reconsiders his positions: military failures of imperial army in the Far East help

V. Bryusov to overcome the great-power illusions, convince him of putridity and hopelessness of autocracy» [5, p. 180].

If we speak about V. Bryusov's relation to Russian-Japanese war, it should be noted, that it wasn't consecutive. Considering his poems, which were written in the first period of war, necessary to emphasize, that they almost don't differ from the official poetry, supporting imperial claims of Russia. However in the development of the historical events, when everything became clearer, that the Russian autocracy loses war, V. Bryusov changes the relation to the events. His poems are more and more executed of contempt for dull imperial command and pain for a shame of the native country. Thus, the Russian-Japanese war of 1905 gets tragic sounding in lyrics of the poet and defines the new direction of his views.

II. The purpose of the article

is description the war and revolution of the beginning of the XX century and historical events of the period of Russian-Japanese war. Describe the motives and images in some poems during this time.

III. Results

The most brightly events of Russian-Japanese war are embodied in the collection of poems «Venok» (1904-1905). In a forward to the book the poet with strong pain wrote: «My poor book! I give you to the readers in days, when they need not a voice of quiet thoughts, not tunes of immemorial pleasures and immemorial sufferings, but anthems of fight and a drumbeat. You will be similar, my book, to the mad singer, who came to the field of fight, in a smoke, under shots, – only with a harp... Yes, time is come of military pipes and songs of battles» [2, p. 620].

We can make a conclusion on the basis of diary entries of the poet, that V. Bryusov as the person endured events of 1905 much wider and more deeply, than he reflected them in the creativity as the poet: «It was the year of a storm, whirlpool for me. I never worried such passions, such torment, such pleasures. The most part of experiences are embodied in the poems of my book... From Sometimes I was quite sincerely ready to throw all previous ways of my life and to pass on new, to start all life over again...» [1, p. 136].

The author specially allocated the big section of the poems in the book «Venok», which are called «Sovremennost». V. Bryusov attached great value to this cycle, which was devoted to the political events in Russia of the period of Russian-Japanese war. For this reason there are many poems on the subject «from the present», partly revolutionary, partly directly anti-revolutionary [3, p. 89].

During Russian-Japanese war V. Bryusov steadfastly watched the military events. There are many poems, which the poet devoted to war events, he created a repellent, bloody image of war, branded it the most terrible comparisons: war since the birth «is raised by milk of panther», «lust of blood became her constant requirement».

The first news of military operations at the beginning of 1904 was met by V. Bryusov with exclusive enthusiasm. The heroic days found an embodiment in the artistic images, which were released from the present, mainly in idealized history and mythology, in the bright and the extraordinary pictures of military reality. V. Bryusov perceived war as the sharp and exciting event of private life. «Ah, war!» – he wrote to Pertsov. – Our inaction enrages me. It is time for us to bombard Tokyo... [5, p. 42]. However, V. Bryusov didn't reach and couldn't reach understanding of «Japanese campaign» as «silly and criminal colonial adventure of autocracy» [3, p. 47], in any case, he didn't try to idealize it.

V. Bryusov's poems, which are devoted to military subject, there are neither images of soldiers, nor descriptions of battles, the image of those places where was war waged. V. Bryusov mainly represents war in abstract and grandiose images. Public views of young V. Bryusov didn't differ in sequence. He repeatedly

emphasized the neglect to policy and estrangement from it. Some contemporaries of the poet even characterized him as monarchist and the reactionary (G. Chulkov, partly P. Pertsov).

E. Litvin noted that «a great value for the formation of political views of the poet and development of his civil lyrics had Russian-Japanese war. The patriotism of the poet, which wasn't rising before awareness of original interests of the Russian people went on the false way. V. Bryusov saw performance of historical mission of Russia in war of 1904-1905 («To the Pacific Ocean», 1904, («К Тихому океану», 1904)) he urged to postpone political struggle until the end of victorious war ((«To the citizens», 1904, («К согражданам», 1904))» [4, p. 494].

The historical course of the events significantly affected attitude of the poet. War accelerated indignation of a people at large and strengthened crisis of autocracy. V. Bryusov painfully endured many political events: defeat near Mukden, falling of Port Arthur, death of the Russian fleet at Tsushima. He mourned death of a squadron «Tsushima» («Цусима»), the poet «topped with a shame» the government, which did not capable to protect the advantage of the nation («Chains», «Цепи») and he called for fight against it («Yuli Caesar», «Юлий Цезарь»).

V. Bryusov originally apprehended war with Japan as performance of century historical mission of Russia («To the Pacific Ocean», January 1904, «К Тихому океану», январь 1904), invested it with the abstract images, which were borrowed from a mythological arsenal («War», 1904, «Война», 1904). He calls for the class world in the poem «To the citizens», 1904, («К согражданам», 1904), when increases revolutionary movement in the country:

Теперь не время буйным спорам,
Как и веселым звонам струн.
Вы, ликторы, закройте форум!
Молчи, неистовый трибун! [2, p. 425]

V. Bryusov endures passionately and tensely the further course of events, he isn't dismissed idea of their grandiose historical value, of approach «new eras of

history». It was a crushing blows for him some news of defeat near Mukden, falling of Port Arthur, Tsusimskaya accident, about a huge number of sacrifices. These moods were reflected in the poem «Tsushima», («Цусима») (June, 1905). The shameful end of war led to full breakdown V. Bryusov's monarchic illusions. He disappointed in the government, which spilled streams of national blood and he came to a conclusion about need of its change.

There are no details, concrete details of life in V. Bryusov's collection «Venok». But periphrases and the allegories heroizing are true the dominating reception here [5, p. 177].

For example, in the poem «To the Pacific Ocean», («К Тихому океану»), the poet gives images of two giants – Russia and the Pacific Ocean. They last to each other, because both are full of strength also greatness. First Russian-Japanese war found reflection in exclusively high abstract and heroic images. The poet calls Russia and the Pacific Ocean two giants, equal on power, which must connect, despite obstacles of enemies. At the same time in V. Bryusov's poems we found reflection and the increasing disappointment in war:

Но нам вожатым был голос мечты!
Зовом звучали в веках ее клики!
Шли мы, слепые, и вскрылся нам ты,
Тихий! Великий!
Вот чего ждали мы, дети степей!
Вот она, сродная сердцу стихия!
Чудо свершилось: на грани своей
Стала Россия [2, p. 423].

P. Struve treated to military lyrics with great sympathy, especially allocating poem, as «To the Pacific Ocean» («К Тихому океану») – this is «a poetic pearl of patriotic dream». «We climb up top at which we breathe easier, and the look sees farther in pleasure of this poetry ...»

In the poem «War» («Война») the poet personifies an image of war, calling her the daughter of the same personified abstract concepts, such as Force and

Contention. War appears in perception of the lyrical hero in an image of «animal», which since the childhood was brought up among predators and soaked up blood lust with milk. The poet recreates terrible shape of war:

И кровь блестит полоской красной
На жемчугах твоих зубов [2, p. 424].

The poem «On new 1905», («На новый 1905») is casted by thoughts about war. It is filled the abstract personified images. On fatal bowls of these scales are happiness and misfortune of the people. War, according to the poet, is the terrible game threatening with death to the people:

Молчи и никни, ум надменный!
Се – высшей истины пора!
Пред миром на доске вселенной
Веков азартная игра [2, p. 425].

V. Bryusov wrote the passionate poem «To the citizens», («К согражданам») in December, 1904. The poet urged to stop in the face of the enemy political struggle within the country, it seemed to him, that it will help a victory. He enters a number of symbolical images of a classical antiquity and the Bible into the poem: «sacred Aventin, Azrail, Isav» [2, p. 425].

Another spirit and tone are deeply penetrated V. Bryusov's poems, which are written to the period of defeat of imperial army. The poem «Tsushima», («Цусима») is full of sincere grief. There are beautiful lines about the fleet which died in heroic fight, an image of the grieving poet, which expresses thoughts and feelings of many Russian people, a sad and stately image of Russia. The poem «Chains» («Цепи») has a characteristic subtitle: «Concerning conclusion of peace with Japan and in other occasions». This subtitle helps to comprehend poem in much wider socio-political plan. If the first V. Bryusov's poems of war were got by pathetic pathos if the poem «Tsushim» («Цусима») is full of heavy grief, subsequently poems of the writer sound angrily and satirically. The poet reproaches those, who directed this war, in cowardice, in compliance, in changes.

«So listen to a tune cheerful, – V. Bryusov write with contempt, – the Poet crowns you with a shame!» [2, p. 429].

IV. Conclusion

So, V. Bryusov's poems about Russian-Japanese war are the important document of an era and at the same time they testify about evolution of fictional consciousness of the writer and development of his individual style. They reflected shift in political and public convictions. The characteristic tendencies of the beginning of the XX century have found an embodiment in V. Bryusov's «Venok», which were perceived by the poet in analogies with history and culture of last eras.

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