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**WARNING OF APOCALIPSE IN THE NOVEL
BY YURII SHCHERBAK «THE TIME OF DEATHCHRISTS»**

The novel by Yurii Shcherbak «The Time of Deathchrists: the illusions of 2077» – the first part of futuristic diology about the fate of Ukraine in the end of XXI century. The author, who had been taking an active part in the political life of our country, creates a detailed picture of its alarming near future, which, nevertheless, has many common features with the present geopolitical situation in Ukraine and the world in particular. In spite of the ambiguity of the scientific reviews, the novel has got the absolute approval of the reader's audience, because the author skillfully reveals the scale of the ideological content in the dynamic plot, full of bright characters and political intrigues, acute criticism of the ruling class, religious bigotry, love experience and fantastic «entourage» of the world of future.

The title itself calls up in the reader eschatological associations and the further investigation of the text convince of the subject of «The Time of Deathchrists» being full of apocalyptic premonition; even the mood, the inner tension of the novel prompts the recipient towards the idea of irreversible end of the depicted world.

Apocalyptic motives in «The Time of Deathchrists» are connected with global political changes in the world (the division of the territories and spheres of influence between the most powerful countries) and also with the political crisis in Ukraine, which becomes the impulse towards the regressive social transformations on the level of spirituality and morality, caused by the inhuman behavior from the side of the authorities. With the help of the means of hyperbole and satire, the author expresses warnings against menacing actuality of the modern life, marks the dangerous inactivity and shortsightedness of Ukrainians in problem-solving questions.

The disturbing symptom in the novel sounds the idea of degradation of Ukrainian mentality, the destruction of the national identity, the limitation of the rights of the nation that were long since the integral part of the liberal Ukrainian

spirit, the extermination of spirituality and Christian faith. On such a basis the movement of Deathchrists goes fast forward, which has the «doctrine» of Jesus Christ's secular life and ensuring of his resurrection as the ideological basis. Deathchrists deny the existence of God, consider the Christian ideology as archaistic and deny the moral-ethical norms. Primitive, clear ideology of Deathchrists saves the human from the burden of responsibility, the fear of the divine retribution, blunts the voice of the conscience. So, the Ukrainian nation, exhausted by centuries-old oppressions, disappointed in its own leaders and their slogans, morally destroyed by the criminal attitude of the authorities, joins such conditions gladly, and the movement, which began as the political provocation, turns out to be a powerful religious confrontation between the Deathchrists and the The Revivalchrists (the adherents of Christianity). However, the civilized society cannot be held on the principles that turn the human into a primitive creature. That is why the spite, the cruelty, the inner degradation of the Ukrainian society of the future becomes an evident fact and, perhaps, the defining factor of imminence of the apocalyptical finale.

Therefore, in the novel «The Time of Deathchrists» Yurii Shcherbak fulfils artistically his prediction of Ukraine's possible future, creates an accusing portrait of present time full of criticism of Ukrainian social-political system, appeals to the inner felling of consciousness and national dignity of every reader with the only goal – to attract attention to the regressive decadent processes in society, to the necessity of constant control and profound analysis of any political decisions, calls Ukrainians not to be a gray mass, «the last Ukrainians», but to feel themselves «the first» and to turn the nation on the path of changes and struggle for freedom and independence.