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**AN ATTEMPT TO STRICT INTERPRETATION IS A CHANCE TO
INDULGENCE? THE NARRATIVE «MISUNDERSTANDING»
BY P. KAPELGORODSKY**

The name of Philip Kapelgorodsky (1882-1938) is now familiar to a narrow circle of literary critics and readers. Meanwhile, the creative work of the poet, dramatist, satirist, humorist is rather symptomatic phenomenon both in the literary life of Ukraine of the 20-30s of the XX century and in the history and culture of people of the North Caucasus.

Philip Kapelgorodsky is known as the author of many works of fiction and nonfiction, appreciation and interpretation of which in criticism and literary criticism of the previous decades was traditionally limited to defining their place in the process of development of the historical-revolutionary prose.

Most current researches are the materials to be familiarized with. The most authoritative attempts to overcome prejudice against creative achievements of P. Kapelgorodsky are shown by the researchers considering the prose of the artist in the context of the analysis of his artistic intentions in Ukrainian novel of the 20-30s (O. Filatova).

The aim of our research is to understand the problems and the themes of the story «Misunderstanding» by Philip Kapelgorodsky (1930). We set the task to find out whether P. Kapelgorodsky's position towards the Ukrainian intelligentsia, its ties with the people is an objective comprehension of complex social problems or it is a chance to get a certain indulgences for the previous “sins”. The literary process in Ukraine of the 20s of the XX century is marked by the freedom of creative choice, meanwhile during this period the pressure of Bolshevik ideology is increasing and the practice of political mutual accusations and public denunciations is spreading. P. Kapelgorodsky had to find the compromise and to declare the «rebirth of beliefs», the writer proposes its own version of the disclosure of the enemies of the Ukrainian people - bourgeois nationalists and their anti-national activities.

As it is known, P. Kapelgorodsky studied in Poltava seminary together with Simon Petliura, who not only drew him to participate in the Revolutionary Ukrainian party, but also supported his literary talent.

In the story «Misunderstanding» the writer debunks the activities of those gentlemen-liberals by means of a sharp and sarcastic-destructive word, who declared their democratic views in conversations, and when it touched their private interests in the sphere of land ownership, they got down to radical actions.

By its content, the story «Misunderstanding» by P. Kapelgorodsky is close to the story «Horses are not guilty» by M. Kotsiubynsky. The main character Veniamin Yerikhonskyi reminds Arkadiy Petrovich Malina by motivation of behavior, social ideals, ideology and his inner world. He also «flirts» with the peasants: in his youth, «I began to take books to village that I had to hide on the roof», had «the conversation about the earth, about the lords, about the re-allotment of land.»

Some individual differences are described in liberals' philosophical views. First of all, we pay our attention to the ideological motivation of the actions and behaviour of Veniamin Yerikhonskyi, who is sarcastically called «a patriot of the whole neighbourhood». All the time Kapelgorodsky focuses our attention on the political views of the character, an active participant of the Central Council (Rada), for whom the revolution had a distinct national colour and took place under the slogans of the autonomy of Ukraine.

It is rather obvious that the attempts to show anti-popular character of the bourgeois intelligentsia, to ridicule «Autonomous Hetmanate on the pattern of neighbouring kingdoms and principalities» predominate in writer's reflections.

By debunking the so-called «bourgeois populists» and Ukrainian nationalists with the help of sharp satire P. Kapelgorodsky confirmed «rebirth of beliefs», thus hoping to avoid physical punishment for the previous «sins».