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IMAGE OF THE VIRGIN IN TARAS SHEVCHENKO'S WORKS

The article deals with the established by T. Shevchenko the apocryphal folklore image of the Virgin. He lays on the ground the archaic cult of Mother Earth. In it unlike formal ecclesiastical veneration of the Virgin Mary reflected heartfelt, sincere and tender feelings of Ukrainian mothers to their children. The basis of these feelings is the sanctity of motherhood and all embracing love of every mother to her child. In the poetic works of Shevchenko we see outstanding images of mothers who were willing to sacrifice even their lives for their children.

The image of the «folk» Virgin continues a long tradition of folk-religious worship of the Mother-Goddess. In the pagan concept of the Mother Goddess was transformed into the concept of Mother Earth, and later in the image of the goddess Berehynia of the land and people is substituted in Christian times by the image of The Intercession of the Theotokos (Virgin).

Absorbed an echo of the age of folk wisdom, T. Shevchenko in his «Kobzar» plays all the milestones of women's fate. Since children's friendship («Mariana-nun»), a girl's love (the «Catherine», «Gaydamaka», «Poplars», «Mariana-nun») happy married life («Blind»), happiness of motherhood («Blind», «Owl», «Princess», «In our paradise on earth») to a deceitful love («Near grove in an open field», «In that Catherine»), unhappy old age and sin of Sodom («Blind», «Princess», «Witch», «Tytarivna»).

In the poem «Maria» T. Shevchenko talks about his mother, who, in obedience to God's will, brings forth a son for a great sacrifice for the salvation of all mankind. The image of the Virgin Mary embodies the highest spiritual, inner strength, the ability to adequately endure all the trials and suffering, as well as the highest expression of humanity and sacrifice. However, if the folk tradition peculiar canonical sacred of bohomaterynstva then T. Shevchenko designs eternal values associated with the image of the Virgin Mary in the life of a girl and mother in modern poet's complex social environments.