Либерально-демократические ценности / Journal of liberal democratic values https://liberal-journal.ru

2017, Том 1, №1 / 2017, Vol 1, No 1 https://liberal-journal.ru/issue-1-2017.html

URL статьи: <u>https://liberal-journal.ru/PDF/02engLDZ117.pdf</u>

Ссылка для цитирования этой статьи:

Shorokhova S.P. Life after Death (Metamorphoses of humanity) // Либерально-демократические Ценности Том 1, №1 (2017) https://liberal-journal.ru/PDF/02engLDZ117.pdf (доступ свободный). Загл. с экрана. Яз. рус., англ.

Shorokhova Svetlana Petrovna

Institute of world civilizations, Russia, Moscow E-mail: orator3@yandex.ru

Life after Death (Metamorphoses of humanity)

Abstract. Connections characteristic for existence of mankind are considered. These are expressed in philosophical, more strictly speaking, ethical and psychological notions.

Keywords: man; freedom; humanity; feature

Human, too human, always is something animal.

Akutagava

Everything must occur slowly and incorrectly man not to be proud but be quiet and confused.

Venedikt Erofeev

Everything human is essential for man just as animal is essential for beast. For example it is funny deal to consider as main subject of international conference the question: "Does animal thinks?" If somebody thinks this process differs from human thinking for animal cannot and must not act so as man.

Notion of *humanism* is essential and characteristic for human being. It plays important role in his private and social life. In spite of differences between ideas and scientific conceptions humanism essence and status remain invariable – to be world view and criterion of maturity at the same time. As to animal, results of attempts to transform beast in man where fine described, for instance, by H. G. Walles and M. A. Bulgakov and many other.

Source of term "humanism" seems to be more ancient and "usual" notion *humanity* (from Latin *humanus*) as form man being in this world. It is characteristic namely for man as against other creatures we know. Spontaneous and sometimes conscious man grasping of grade of his own humanity is real fact of mankind history. Today we see attempts – God be praised! – meanwhile theoretical to transform man in robot or some new "transbeing". Such attempts even practical to create a new superman are far from a new human actions. New metamorphoses of the notion of humanity occur in accordance with modern trends in theoretical dealing with life.

Captivity

One of the most important attributes of human existence is pair *captivity-freedom* which is closely connected with a notion of humanism. It expresses specific "minus" and "plus" which are characteristic just of man. They are conjoined and doesn't exist separately just as life and death. This pair is evaluated similarly to blaming Evil and praising Good. Natural for human being values are used

here so as in all other cases. It would be very strange if men could judge something from viewpoint of, for example, buttercup, ant or elephant. However men continues their attempts to have a look at the world by means of "eyes of different being" which differs from man mainly by its high position on development scale.

Often it is presented as fact that animals in captivity are sad that they refuse to multiply, pine in every way and doesn't live as long as they could. In general, there is ground for doubts but, as to man, his captivity is Evil and freedom – Good. Human thirst for freedom is similar to aspiration from darkness towards light. However here we aren't speaking about freedom and captivity as such but consider connection between these notions and changes of notion of humanity. Sense of these remains invariable as well as nobody can change essence of humanity. However its "fashion" and all the more methods of its treatment change in the course of time as well as man itself.

Beginning – aspiration to freedom from captivity, "humanization" of human being which sinks in his diseases. Sense of human existence seems to be in aspiration to everything light, finally to light ideal clearly formulated later by mature humanism spread in the form of theory already. It is no more that human intention to escape captivity of beast-like existence which, as think fresh theoretic, man is dragging. Than many thoughts and discussions where expressed in form artificial and scientific works. Man strived from paintings on the walls of tight caves to freedom, particularly, by means of notion "humanism".

It happened (at least in the West) that a notion of single God-Creator was established and Religion had blossomed, which, by the way, contains all the same "plus" and "minus". Notions of humanity and single god fused (for example, Sura 144 of Koran under title "Men" claims: "Say: "I resort to Lord of men, king of man, God of men from evil of hided denunciator which denounce breasts of man by voice of Jinn and Man"); these notions remain inseparable still confusing especially fierce and quivering investigators of human activity and psychology. In their quests terms with almost equal grade of generality are used. It is not strange that attempts to define one of these by means of another continue.

The principle of "singlegodness" doesn't in humanism nothing new in comparison with "multigodness" however religion became one of the most reliable bulwarks of humanism. Very attractive form of religion is Christian humanism claiming that:

- man is infinite and free being;
- love to God is love to man;
- man expresses completeness of creation, addressing to man is addressing to every creature;
- king of everything existing is god-man Jesus Christ;
- man, as such, is ambivalent being.

It is hardly possible to say something shorter and better about man. However, Christians had shed rivers of human blood "for glory of God and Good" not to speaking about Moslems. The same "minus" and "plus" continue their eternal game in every religion and without it.

Laudable in general human aspiration to freedom had some strange even awkward results. But it will be better to point out them a little later.

Freedom

Does freedom is human attribute? It is possible to reason this way also especially when one speaks of freedom as such. However in this case it play auxiliary although very important role. Here

human aspiration to freedom is considered as one of the form of his aspiration to future, his attempt to see "what will be further". Here clearly displays itself exclusively human pair of highest grade of generality – *"life-death"*. Alive do not know and cannot know what will be after death for "nobody returned from here". All beautiful pictures such as rise, reincarnation, etc. which devour man are necessary and quite essential for him.

It is pair-unity "life-death" with which noticeable "screw-deal" of humanism as form of human aspiration to future is connected. This screw-deal is brightly reflected in existentialism, particularly by A. Camus. (His predecessor and "spiritual teacher" F. M. Dostovevski many times showed results of such aspiration, for instance, in famous novel "Demons"; see [2]). "Burst to freedom" was expressed in thesis that wisdom of the world to teach a man not to be afraid of death which transforms his life in tragedy of absurd. Century overfilled by wars, illness, mass killing and suicides. Historical situation itself fertilizes soil for Camus' "Plaque", for flowering and struggle of his Absurd and Riot first of which expresses everything occurring (in life) and second – human attempt to escape something that is inevitability (death). Break to freedom" was expressed in thesis that wisdom of the world is to teach man not to be afraid of death which transforms his life in senseless tragedy. Century overloaded by wars, illness, mass killing and suicides. Historical situation itself prepared soil for Camus' "Plague", for flowering of his Absurd and Riot warming their struggle. First of them presents everything that occurs (in life), second - man attempt to escape inevitability (of death). Absurd is discrepancy between natural order of affairs factual events, Riot is human attempt to justify his life in senseless contradictory reality. A man squeezed in vice of absurd reality has nothing to rely on except his riot which stresses grandeur of absurd. Radical exit from the circle is suicide. That is worthy result of human aspiration to freedom! According such viewpoint (clearly expressed by Camus), man should refuse his hope on future and learn to die to obtain freedom which is the result of choice, and any choice is equally good if it is conscious. As result, notion of freedom itself becomes paradoxical. Great circle closed! Mankind got free of beast-likeness and came to approval of self-abolishing. Kirillov in "Demons" claims: "I kill myself to show my new and terrible freedom" [2].

Very soon humanism will make one more radical step after which, probably, there is no room for a new steps. Why men born in this absurd world must putrefy slowly and think about suicide? He should act much more simpler – to refuse everything human, in other words, to stop be a man. It is better to begin with something elementary that is close to anybody, for example, birth of child. (It is not fantasy of poetic writers. Childfree-projects are realized already. New "thinking and acting" creature will not have notions of sex, motherland, freedom, good, evil, etc. Logic will be replaced by suitable proto- or trans-logic and notion of paradox itself will disappear. That is remarkable result of development of humanism!

Transhumanism

Perhaps now one may speak of "new" form of human rush to future – transhumanism. A little bit earlier then this "asana" of humanism the wave of globalism had risen and holds on today. Possibly it is the most impressive modern trick of humanism after dark "riots" of existentialists. Almost main ugliness of this form of human activity is *refuse of everything human*. Refuse to eat (enouncement of starvation) – it is trifle but when human being is able but refuses to have baby – that is serious. For instance, in 1972 in California vas created club National Organization for Non-Parents, which in 1980 was renamed as National Alliance for Optional Parenthood. It supports movement Childfree-type around the world and tries to convince society that producing a child is not attribute or natural quality of rational man.

Before any speaking of transhumanism it is worth to mention fascism and its variety – radical communism. On my opinion, these are nearest predecessors and "infant forms" of transhumanism.

Fascism left its "mark" on Camus' mehtaphysic of Absurd and Riot as unity of contraries (the same "minus" and "plus" human nature). Quite short and heavy blossom of fascism almost around the world had good support – Second World War which occurred nearly at once after First one. Desire of killing another alive creature had grown stronger, hypertrophied and began to transform in one of habits. Just in framework of fascistic humanism approved on highest government level attempts to create "a new man" were made. How warriors were created, for instance, in ancient Sparta? In any case it were romantic actions in comparison with methods of creation of "super-being" practiced by adherents of fascism, all the more by transhumanists.

Contemporary civilized man, humanistic and enlightened, disagrees categorically with Nature as well as with Creator. According to modernist western paradigm of transhumanism, man life must be maximally long and retain youth. Physical longevity and, probably, immortality may be achieved in different ways (opposite to human nature, as a rule). According to transhumanistic system of view old age, all the more death, is evil (existentialists were not so radical; here motive of fascism are felt). This evil can be overcome by newest technology. In human society of near future there will be no contradictions – sexual, social, philosophical, etc. Traditional borders completely disappear so here is senseless to speak about difference between man and woman, old man and children, this person and another... All this looks like fairy tale produced by incurable ill man. However it is not fantasy. Transhumanism creates its own values, convictions, projects and books. Certainly ancient Hindu or ancient Egyptian would hardly perceive such prophecy but "twist" of humanity continues striving to some unknown ideal. It is time to evaluate as evil pair "alive-dead". Contradiction *Life-Death* prevents motion towards pure truth!

Transhumanism considers one more infortune that is dangerous for mankind not least as plague. Today often sound prognoses of venerable researchers that artificial intelligence will go out of human control. Man who lived in twelfth century p. c. hardly would perceive it. Of course, he would think that it is very strange when iron man friendly shakes hand of usual man. Let it be that computer beat the chess champion. Certainly it is show! Which lone robot route program for this highly intellectual computer? Or the machine studied chess itself? Can laser to make fried eggs? Of course, for is laser! Can man refuse to give birth to child? Certainly, for that is a man! Women which do not gave birth to human being hardly may be called true women. There is only one way for human being to "live after death", only one real possibility to "prolong itself" towards future – to left his alive child in Past. This concerns women as well as men. Of course sometimes we notice another variants (like Akutagava's *In thicket*) but these are rare exclusions that approve low.

It is quite possible that mankind will become only small subsystem of a new supersystem – "Universal Intellect". It is transhumanism that investigates a situation of possible obtaining a new substratum different from human being. However realization of such project by some investigators seems to be self-annihilation of man, evil which must be prevented. Is transhumanism, as such, global evil? Certainly not! It is specific form of humanism. It happens when human being is treated as center of universe.

According to Bible, Creator "was ashamed inside himself" when he have seen what people can do. Is our Creator humanist or transhumanist? One philosopher noticed that He hardly knows exactly whether He possesses freedom of will. As to man, he "is doomed to freedom"! His personal soul is alone field, where the question of future was, is and will be solved.

Humanism won a victory (or continues to win like Good celebrates victory over Evil) but this victory is quite strange. Perhaps it will win further also. When "arrow of time will stop – such scenario is considered by learned people – it will be all the same to win or to lose. Simple expression: "*Yes* is

yes and *no* is *no*; everything other – from Devil" will lose any sense and disappear. Such globalism is typical for humanistic person. Much more hard is making something one, perhaps small but good! Man is created from dust not enigmatic antimatter.

REFERENCES

- 1. Akutagava R. Small collected works. M., 2010 (In Russian).
- 2. Dostoevsky F.M. Demons. M., 1994 (In Russian).
- 3. Erofeev V. Leave my soul n rest: Almost everything. M., 1995 (in Russian).
- 4. Camus A. Essais. Paris, 1965.
- 5. Camus A. L'etranger. La peste. M, Editions du Progres, 1969
- 6. Camus A. Selected works. Rostov-na-Donu, Feniks, 1998 (in Russian).
- 7. Camus A. Theatre, recit, nouvelles, Paris, 1961.
- 8. Camus A. The Stranger. Plague. Fall. Tales and Essays. M., Raduga, 1988 (in Russian).
- 9. Dostoevski F. Writers diary. M., 1880 (in Russian).

Шорохова Светлана Петровна

НАНО ВО «Институт мировых цивилизаций», Россия, Москва Заведующий кафедрой «Политических процессов, технологий и пропаганды» Кандидат философских наук, доцент E-mail: orator3@yandex.ru

Жизнь после смерти (Метаморфозы человечности)

Аннотация. В настоящей статье анализируются связи, характерные для реального существования человеческого общества и выраженные в философских, точнее говоря, этикопсихологических понятиях и категориях.

Ключевые слова: человек; свобода; человечность; будущее

ЛИТЕРАТУРА

- 1. Акутагава Р. Малое собрание сочинений. М., 2010.
- 2. Достоевский Ф. М. Бесы. М., 1994.
- 3. Ерофеев В. Оставьте мою душу в покое: Почти всё. М., 1995.
- 4. Камю А. Избранное. Ростов-на-Дону, Феникс, 1998.
- 5. Камю А. Миф о Сизифе. В кн.: Творчество и свобода. Статьи, эссе, записные книжки. М., Радуга, 1990.
- 6. Посторонний. Чума. Падение. Рассказы и эссе. М., Радуга, 1988.
- 7. Достоевский Ф.М. Дневник писателя. М. 1880.
- 8. Camus A. Essais. Paris, 1965.
- 9. Camus A. L'etranger. La peste. M, Editions du Progres, 1969.