ABSTRACT

This dissertation presents an analysis of the philosophical foundations and the metaphysical aspects of the so-called «life-creation» achievements of Russian symbolism in the early 20th century. Program articles, lyrics, materials of public statements, memoirs and correspondence of the leading representatives of the movement are taken as a textual basis. The case of researches devoted to development of a perspective of symbolism is taken into account. Much attention is paid to a general philosophical context: so, a methodological basis of the section on metaphysics in poetry are M. Heidegger and H. G. Gadamer's works; M. Foucault's practices in the field of history of the European subject formed methodological base for the analysis of a concept of the personality in the Russian symbolism; model of a phenomenon of the myth of A. Losev – for the analysis the symbolist practitioners.

The main method which defined an architecture of all work – structural, for the analysis of texts is used hermeneutical approach.

The dissertation is organised into two basic parts. Part I follows the development of the ontological project behind symbolism, reconstructing the philosophical methods typical of a circle of authors. Part II is dedicated to philosophical inquiries into the «life-creation» accomplishments of Russian symbolisms.

THE MAIN ARGUMENT OF THE DISSERTATION MAY BE EXPRESSED IN THE FOLLOWING PREPOSITIONS:

1. There exists a single, although implicit, ontological project behind symbolism. The lack of a sufficiently corroborated philosophical programme notwithstanding, certain permanent metaphysical foundations of symbolism may be ascertained and reconstructed.

2. In Russian philosophy, of which symbolism is an integral part, the advancement of subjectivity takes place alongside spiritual development. The aim is to create a more complete personality, one with augmented means of cognition and reinforced ontological status.

3. Undivided concentration on the individual’s personality, which is the focal point of «life-creation» forces, is the basis for Russian symbolism. The sequence in which a theurgic personality is created may be described by means of an ontological structure consisting of a range of subsequent evolutionary stages: initial awareness of one’s destiny and the formation of a spiritual path, the striving for spiritual perfection, the rituals of initiation and ultimate theurgic service.

4. All major accomplishments of the symbolists may be considered as a single, complex «life-creation» effort, as all of these accomplishments share a common objective: religious activity ultimately dedicated to a reconstruction and transformation of personality, culture and the world.

Key-words: russian symbolism, Silver age, theurgia, life-creation, «care of the selff>, the path of initiation, metaphysics in poetry, mystical poetry, occultism, mythmaking.