

Title: Sud'ba Lichnosti – Sud'ba Kultury: the Crisis of the Middle Ages as Seen Through Pushkin's "Skupoi rytsar"

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As David Bethea has noted, a defining characteristic of Pushkin's historical thinking is his interest in the turning point rather than the continuous historiographical narrative. The themes in *Malen'kie tragedii*, as formulated by Beliak and Virolainen, can be categorized as just such moments. The crisis of the middle ages emerges in "Skupoi rytsar"; the crisis of the Renaissance in "Kamennyi gost"; the crisis of the Enlightenment in "Motsart i Sal'eri"; and the crisis of modernity in "Pir vo vremia chumy." One of the least studied time periods in Pushkin's historical world view is the Middle Ages, although the author clearly expresses interest in this period, writing "Skupoi rytsar" (1830) and the unfinished "Stseny iz rytsarskikh vremen" (1835). While much has been written on "Skupoi rytsar," there does not yet exist a substantial study of the work as it relates to Pushkin's historical thinking, in particular, his interest in turning points. This paper, focusing on "Skupoi rytsar," will shed light on the historical nature of the work. Alexander Dolinin has determined that Walter Scott's detailed article "Chivalry" and volume 4 of the English historian Henry Hallam's *History of Europe During the Middle Ages* are the primary sources for Pushkin's information on the age of chivalry. Both sources outline in detail the principles of knighthood and chivalry. I will examine in more detail these historical sources for Pushkin's drama, the inversion in "Skupoi rytsar" of the principles found therein and what that means for Pushkin's conception of history, as well as analyze the idea of individuality as a historical concept.

Beliak, N. V. and M. N. Virolainen. "Malen'kie tragedii" kak kul'turnyi epos novoevropeskoi istorii." *Pushkin: issledovaniia i materialy*. Vol. 14. Leningrad: Nauka, 1991. 73–96.

Bethea, David. "Pushkin as Historical Thinker." *The Pushkin Handbook*. Ed. David Bethea. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2005. 266–282.

Dolinin, Alexander. "O podzagolovke 'Skupogo rytsaria'." *Pushkin i Angliia*. Moscow: Novoliteraturnoe obozrenie, 2007. 99.