

Title: “To Blow Up the Epoch’s Mind”: Edward Limonov’s *Epistle to the Galatians*
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The Epistle to the Galatians, a poetic cycle of nineteen poems published in a literary newspaper *The Day of Literature* in December 2010, provides yet another proof that Limonov, despite his declarative public statements, has never abandoned poetry for politics. Characteristically for Limonov’s current activity as a political leader, however, *The Epistle to the Galatians* combines literature and politics, being a poetic declaration of Limonov the politician.

The title of the cycle refers to The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, written by Saint Paul during his mission to Asia Minor in the 50s AD. In his Epistle the apostle establishes his authority as an advocate of the new religion and at the same time preaches it to the Galatians, the newly converted Celtic pagans. In Limonov’s poetic cycle Paul is shown to be a stubborn outcast who is creating a new religion destined to win its way and overcome the establishment that is currently rejecting the apostle. Limonov uses various literary techniques to draw a comparison between Paul and himself, and therefore asserts that his “doctrine”, a sort of a new heathenism, will surely supersede Paul’s obsolete Christianity, which has been compromised by later generations and their bourgeois ideology.

In his *Epistle to the Galatians*, Limonov, like Paul the Apostle, establishes his prestige – in his case, that of a prophet and leader of the coming anti-bourgeois Apocalypse. Like Paul, he preaches his “doctrine” and strengthens the “faith” of his followers. He uses Saint Paul’s authority to achieve his personal political and poetic goals, but, as he does with any authority beside his own, he first turns it inside out.

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