

Gavrila DERZHAVIN

ODE TO GOD

(Translated by Nathan Haskell Dole)

O Thou, infinite in space,
Living in the motions of matter,
Eternal in the course of time,
Without persons in the three persons
of the Godhead!
Spirit everywhere permeating, and One,
Who hast no place or condition;
Unto whom no one can attain,
Who fillest all things with Thyself,
Embracest, vivifiest, preservest,
Whom we call God.

To measure the ocean deep,
To count the sands, the planet's rays,
Might be in the power of lofty intellect, -
For Thee there is no number and
no measure;
Powerless are the enlightened spirits
Though born of Thy light
To explore Thy decrees.
So soon as thought dare mount towards
Thee
It vanishes in Thy majesty,
As a passing instant in eternity.

Existence, forth from chaos, before time
was,
Thou from the gulfs of Eternity didst
call forth;
And Eternity, before the birth of the ages,
Thou didst found in Thyself:
By Thyself, self constituted,
Of Thyself, self shining,
Thou art light, from whence light streamed.
Creating all things by Thy single word,



In Thy new creation stretching out
Thou wast, Thou art, Thou ever shalt be.

Thou containest in Thyself the chain
of beings,
Thou sustainest them, and givest them life,
Thou joinest together the end and
the beginning,
Thou grantest life unto death.
As sparks are showered forth, and rush away
So suns are born from Thee.
As on a bright, frosty winter's day
The spangles of hoar-frost sparkle,
So whirl, flash, shine
The stars in the gulfs beneath Thee.

Millions of kindled luminaries
Flow through infinity;
Thy laws they operate,
Pour forth revivifying rays.
But these fiery lamps
Whether piles of ruddy crystals
Or a boiling throng of golden billows,
Others glowing

Or all alike worlds of light,
Are in Thy presence as night before day.

Like a drop drowned in the sea
Is all the shining firmament before Thee;
But what is the Universe that I see?
And what am I before Thee ?
If yon aerial ocean exist
Millions of worlds,
Hundreds of millions of other worlds,

and yet, -
When I venture to compare them with Thee,
They are but a single dot,
And I in Thy presence am naught.

Naught! But in me Thou shinest
In the majesty of Thy goodness;
In me Thou reflectest Thyself
As the sun in a tiny drop of water.
Naught! But life I feel,
Unsatisfied with aught, I soar
Ever aloft unto the heights;
My soul yearns to be Thine,
Penetrates, meditates, thinks:
I am, therefore Thou art also.

Thou art! the order of Nature proclaims it,
My heart tells me the same,
My reason persuades me;
Thou art, and I am therefore not nothing!
I am a part of the universal All,
Established, methinks, in the reverend
Midst of Thy Universe,
Where Thou hast ended Thy corporeal
creatures,
Where Thou hast begun the
heavenly spirits
And the chain of all beings is linked to me.

I am a bond between all worlds
everywhere existent,
I am the utmost limit of being;
I am the centre of living things,
The initial stroke of Divinity;
In my body I perish in dust corruptible,
In my spirit I command the storms;
I am a tsar, I am a slave; I am a worm,
I am god!

But marvelous indeed as I am,
Whence did I have my being? Unknown
But by myself I could not have been.

Thy work am I, Creator!
I am the creation of Thy wisdom,
Source of life, Dispenser of all good,
Soul of my soul, and Tsar!
It was necessary for Thy righteousness
That the gulf of mortality should be
spanned
By my immortal existence;
That my spirit should be wrapped
in mortality
And that through death I should return,
Father, to Thy immortality.

Incomprehensible, Ineffable,
I know that my soul's imagination
is helpless

To paint even Thy shadow;
But if it is necessary to sing Thy praise,
Then it is impossible for feeble mortals
To reverence Thee in any other way
Than by yearning toward Thee
By losing one's self in Thy
endless variety,
And by shedding tears of gratitude.

(Igor): Mrs Evgenia, would you please tell me if you think it is good for our younger generation to read the Bible? Would it strengthen our Bukovinian district and improve the conscience of Bukovinians?

(Evgenia): I doubt they will read the Bible, if nowadays they're going to discotheques - taking off their briefs throwing them hanging them on willow tree.

(Igor): May they be listening to you, to elders if you insist them to read the Word God?

(Evgenia): Who wants to listen this days? They would rather to push you away if you would make up your mind to advise them. Now, I tell you this, if mother smokes, father drinks or using drugs, then, how will their kids grow up? What is there showing on TV? Switching from channel to channel, there's just one evil creeping on another. Perhaps the fall is in it. If you go back to look at our old generation, we were different. I am 82 years old. I tell you this, my nephew Ivan has a teen son and teen daughter, and they call their parents "You" (plural) with respect to me as well and to

FIGHTING GENERATIONS

An Interview with Ukranian Retiree Evgenia Frantsovna Melnuchuk on her 82th Birthday

others, greeting them.

(Igor): If they are obeying and reading the Bible, does it mean they are having their upbringing under parents control?

(Evgenia): Yes, while I am praying they are stand beside me also praying.

(Igor): I think, if they get more education they would pray before they meal time, before the night, in the morning, then Holy Spirit will fill their mind and the heart of those children and will guide their lives. What are your thoughts?

(Evgenia): Yes, but a lot of children don't even know the Lord's prayer.

(Igor): Mrs. Eugenia, please tell me, this recent murder which happened in our village, is it the parents' fault of the guy who did it?

(Evgenia): Oh no, this is his fault who did it. Why it should be the parents fault? If he would have God in his heart, believing in Him, he wouldn't do it. In the

moment of committing this crime the evil one was guiding that guy, it was the one with "horns". The parents of that girl who suffered of him are going to church. Talking about this guy - the jail will not make him any better, although not to punish him, it is also not the right thing. What about these days? Please say that right now it is time like that! But it isn't time - these are such people! Grief is there!

(Igor): Why are people like that now?

(Evgenia): Because nowadays all is well for everybody. For example, when I was young walking to my aunt's to get milk, where I cross the street, there's such big traffic, riding cars one by one by one! So intense! Is it grief for people? Before we had (tachka) one wheel working handler, (fira) carriage that horses pull...

(Igor): So, people thinking only about materialistic things and just materialistic things kill simple qualities.

(Evgenia): Right. Now the youth think how to get money or to cheat.

(Igor): What parting advice do you have for our readers, with your simple language and understanding what you would say?

(Evgenia): I wish that people would be closer to each other, having respect, be good in their heart to each other. Modern youth... do they want to read the Bible? Well, if they are dressed daily like for New Year's Eve or with outfits like for "Malanka" (Ukrainian Halloween) then, what is in their mind? How come they don't have work to do at their homes? They are putting on clothes like monkey or sheep down on all fours. The difference they are walking on 2 feet. For instance-I talk my grandson Andrew: I rebuke him - he cries... means he has conscience... but it is not in all kids like that.

(Igor): Perhaps Andrew has a soft soul?

(Evgenia): For instance I say: "You must be home at 9 PM, if you want be 15 minutes late-just ask, I let you come late" and you know, he listens. Now in the school teachers... such teachers... in other words - they

are not interested that children would get education, they just advance students to the next year and graduate. Afterwards, somebody has to pay for institute or university to become a doctor. What after that? Will this doctor treat you good? Rather let you go to eternity faster. If you are sick going to be seen by such a doctor with his treatment, he might make you disabled faster because he knows nothing. Such is a teacher - scores him "3" (highest "5") just "let student go" to study maybe for a lawyer. What kind of lawyer he will become

(Igor): May be in Institute he will be studying?

(Evgenia): Why? There is an uncle in Canada who will send money. Why he has to study? Long ago in our Ukrainian Chernivtsi district under Romanian Empire, our classes had a minute of prayer before beginning our day, they forced us to say: "Our Father" we even had religious education in schools after exams on it. Now people are different and not appreciating the freedom and time we just got to use it for Bible studies.

Igor SAUCHUK

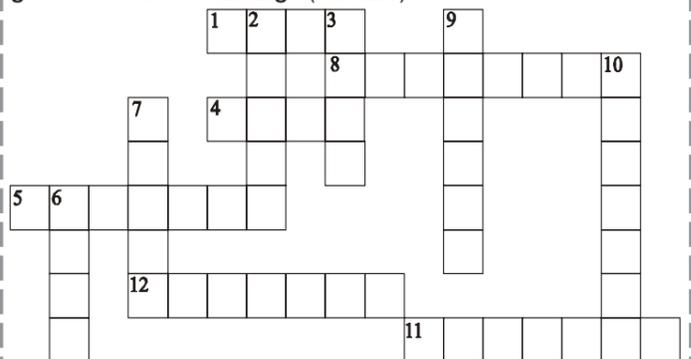
Photos: by Gate 6, Terminal 5, JFK Airport shoe shine owner said: «That child was my smallest customer» FAMOUS SHOESHINERS:

Several high profile figures worked as shoeshiners at one point of their lives: Mahmoud Ahmed - Ethiopian singer[4], James Brown - "The Godfather of Soul". He used to shine shoes and sing and dance on Ninth Street in Augusta, Georgia; in 1993 the road was renamed "James Brown Boulevard" in his honour.[5][6], Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva - later President of Brazil[7], Alejandro Toledo - later President of Peru[8], Malcolm X - worked as a shoeshine boy at a Lindy Hop nightclub in New York City[9][10], Rod Blagojevich - later Governor of Illinois[11], Sammy Sosa Former Dominican baseball player predominately for the Chicago Cubs [12].



CROSSWORD

"But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8).



- 1. The highest quality God wants to reach. 2. The Biblical tree. 3. The name of garden. 4. Revelation book says that something will come to the end. 5. Spiritual title. 6. Name of Apostle. 7. Our Savior. 8. Syrian citi. 9. Jesus is developer of one quality into us. 10. First Apostle who was stoned to death. 11. Lawyers were told that they load people with something extra. 12. The holy day which spiritually pointed on Jesus Christ as Messiah.