

*Hryhoriy Savych
Skovoroda -
humanist,
philosopher, poet,
teacher.*



He was born in 1722 in the village in Poltava region. He graduated from the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. At the age of 20 he went to St. Petersburg, where he became a famous musician. After returning he went on a 3-year trip around the world. Since 1769 he became a wandering educator. The last decades were the years of his glory.





He predicted his death: "He went to his room, changed his linen, prayed to God and, putting his written works and a gray scroll under his head, lay down with his arms crossed. We waited for him with dinner for a long time. Skovoroda did not appear. The next day in the morning for tea too, for lunch the same. This surprised the owner. He dared to enter the Skovoroda to wake him up; but the Skovoroda was already cold and stiff." This happened in November 1794 in the village of Pan-Ivanivka, now Skovorodynivka, Kharkiv region.



*On the cross above his grave,
at the request of Skovoroda
himself, it is written:*

*"The world caught me,
but did not catch
me..."*

*- Hryhoriy
Skovoroda*

Attitude to religion

Skovoroda's works were printed in hundreds of copies during his life, because the censorship of the time found them "contrary to the Holy Scriptures and offensive to monasticism". Brought up in the spirit of philosophical and religious learning, Skovoroda rebelled against the dead church scholasticism and spiritual oppression of Moscow "Orthodoxy", basing his philosophy on the Bible.



*"To know God, one must know oneself.
Until a person knows God in himself, it
is useless to look for Him in the world."*



*"To believe in God does not mean to
believe in His existence, but to
surrender to Him and live according to
His law."*

*"The sanctity of life consists in doing
good to people."*

The theme of freedom



Skovoroda defended the rights of the human personality in each person and translated into the specific political language of the time, this meant a strong democratic tendency, which was combined with compassion for the enslaved peasant masses, with a sharp hostility to the Moscow oppressors.

In one of his poems with the
meaningful title "De libertate"
he wrote:



What is this liberty? What good is
it?

They speak of it as if it were gold.
Ah, it is not golden: if you compare
gold

against liberty, it is blather...

Hail forever, O chosen man,

Father of liberty, hero Bohdan!

ell

The theme of friendship

Skovoroda speaks about friendship as a source of joy, and hence - of mental health. However, one should choose friends very carefully, avoiding sycophants and crooked people. Because often insincere friends attract a young person to excess, tempting with assurances that everything is clean for the pure; in such cases, one must resolutely overcome shyness and firmly refuse, and then refuse to communicate with such people at all, - the mentor warns.

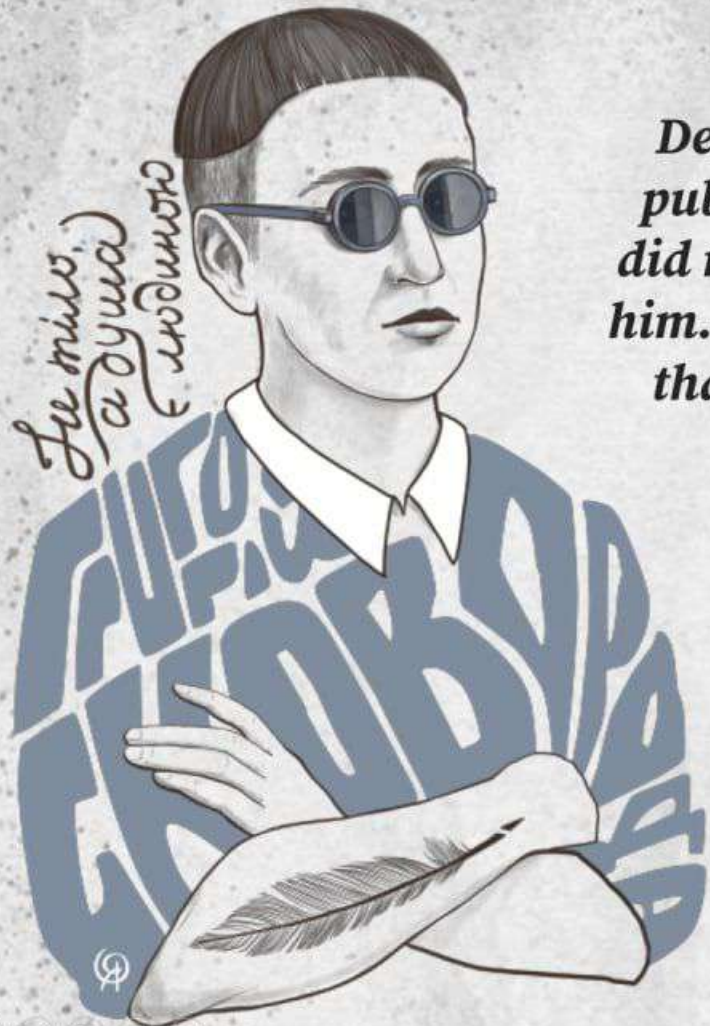


Skovoroda's influence on contemporaries



Hryhoriy Skovoroda had a great influence on his contemporaries and on further Ukrainian society, and not only with his ethical science, but mainly with his life, in which his word never diverged from his deed: his teaching was in full agreement with his life.





Despite the fact that Skovoroda's works were not published, they spread through rewrites. Skovoroda did not need to look for readers - they were looking for him. He had such strong supporters and propagandists that even through the newspapers they announced, calling those wishing to read the works of the Ukrainian philosopher

