

„Crisis and culture” conference

résumé

Crisis-images in Faludy’s Europe and America

I’d like to represent the crisis of last century through works of a Hungarian emigrant poet George Faludy; in his roving, in his acts of self-constitution, delusions, regrets, shames and pride.

George Faludy as a witness of moral, existential, social crisis of 20th century gave his own answers for questions searching for individual. In his works he was concerned about problems of minority, position of national identity in dictatorship, position of artist in globalised world even as the crisis of culture.

Representation of every days of emigré Hungarians appear in his prose and lyre as well, well-off lifestyle in line with seclusion, and fate of separated Hungarian communities. He describes estrangement in their families, as long as the first generation was born in America, cannot make real connection with their parents. Parents didn’t learn English and didn’t live on the average American lifestyle. History created a gap between parents and sons lived together in the same home. The older generation yearn for past times, native soil and for this reason they cannot understand each other with their own children. In Faludy’s works, his position related to similar situations helps to understand the motivation of his later decisions.

The question occurs in every emigrant’s life is: go “home” or stay abroad and face to trials. For a poet this question is more difficult because of Hungarian mother tongue, and that’s also the reason why this is the bedrock of his life and works as well. Without Hungarian language even pure life and not only writing become pointless.

Just as the financial stability and wealth supplant the culture filled with values from everyday life, the future of humanity is seen to be getting darker by Faludy. He categorizes expertly the fears of how culture transforms to trivial, also the vanishing of the boundaries between the high and low culture. Environment friendly view appears in his lyre, the one’s responsibility against the world, the revalue of the untouched nature. He characterizes the status quo of the resistant intellectuals before the 1st WW, the personal fights of those, who were forced to emigration, then returned home with hopes and collaborated with communist views, then turned against the system. In his works it is easy to observe the fights of the person, who follows no ideas, who gives up the previous social character and tries to recreate his own personality. Runaway from problems leads to a hedonistic, slightly narcissistic self- and worldview. He found his shelter in humanism, while he needed to face his own crisis, because of his role in the Rákosi-dictatorship and his publications in Népszava.

In the performance I would detail the result of the crisis from the view of language in lyres of Faludy and would examine the possible answers, reactions in that area full with damages. I would emphasise the well-detailed happiness philosophy effects on the receivers.