

## THE PROBLEM OF HAPPINESS IN THE WORK OF G.S.SKOVORODY

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Happiness is one of the most consistent and, at the same time, dynamic systems of moral consciousness. Attempts to resolve this issue accompany the history of mankind. The question of Happiness has neither time nor space limits. To the study of this problem devoted much attention philosophers of the past and the present. Indeed, there are many treatises on Happiness. Most of them are not devoted to the problem of Happiness, but ways to achieve it. In practical terms, this is the most important aspect, but in theory, it is only one of many aspects of Happiness. Question of Happiness is closely related to question of Meaning of Life. Can happiness be the meaning of life or just a means for achieving the latter? Gregory Savich Skovoroda, great Ukrainian philosopher, was among those that addressed problem of Happiness in their work. He proposed his "Formula of Happiness": "Be happy - it is to know yourself, and your nature, to take care of your own destiny and to do what you are good at." This is a fundamental formula. Any "Formula of happiness" offered to us today by various other philosophers fits in itself trio offered by Skovoroda: Self-consciousness (to know yourself or your nature), self-improvement (to take care of your own destiny) and self-fulfillment (to do what you are good at). All three of these processes must be continuity of one another and must be in the mutual influence. Skovoroda's "Formula of Happiness" is universal. And its main element is the freedom of choice. However, the question is, is it indeed that man has a free will? In man there is always internal confrontation of opposites: love and hate, truth and lie, good and evil, beauty and viciousness. And on which of those will prevail depends one's Happiness.

Society, according Skovoroda should elevate the human spirit. It is crucial to create a cult of love, as a fundamental principle of spirituality, the primary source of the sublime in man. There is no other way to build a happy society. In the words of Skovoroda: "Isn't it Love binds everything together, creates, just as hatred destroys... What provides basis? Love. What creates? Love. What protects? Love, love! What gives pleasure? Love. Love - the beginning, the center and the end, Alpha and Omega." What is Love then? Skovoroda answers this question: "Love is the eternal bond between God and man. Love is the invisible fire that inflames the heart to God's words and will, and therefore, Love herself is God. "

Thus happiness is love and love is God. God is the fullness of love. Is not this, that essential part of the word Happiness? And does not word Happiness mean that man is One with God? That man is involved with God?

After all, God did not create us in order to establish its own strength, but to let man live, work and be happy. To achieve ultimate happiness God had armed man with suitable means, in particular, has engaged in his nature strong uncontrollable desire for Him and unconquerable desire to live in union with Him. Those that act in accordance with this requirement and get closer to the Lord, become truly happy.