



We are not many
standard selves,
but many different
universes

YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE A HUMAN

Vasyl Symonenko

A lyrical poem

The first edition - 1962

Symonenko
reads his poem!
Listen to it!



Vasyl Symonenko

(1935–1963)



YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE A HUMAN

You can choose everything in the world, son. Only the Motherland cannot be chosen

Read about Symonenko



A journalist, a writer, an active member of the Ukrainian resistance movement, a sixtier activist, an outstanding poet who still impresses and inspires Ukrainians today

THE GENRE

A lyrical poem

THE LITERARY MOVEMENT

The Sixtiers

THE IDEA

affirmation of the idea of the uniqueness of each person; a message to use the time allotted for life rationally

THE THEME

The writer's reflections on the transience of life, during which everyone must do as much as possible, do good deeds

THE MOTIVE

justice, sustainability, self-respect, personality, self, people, government

THE PROBLEMS

a person and society (the purpose of a person on the earth); the individuality of each person; the transience of time and life

THE LITERARY GENRE

Lyric poetry

ARTISTIC MEANS



Repetitions

Your smile's unique,
Your suffering's unique,
Your eyes are the only ones.



A rhetorical exclamation

Make sure you don't oversleep!



Rhetorical questions

You know that you're human,
Do you know it or not?



Epithets

people – kind, tender, and harsh
Your smile's unique, Your suffering's unique

VASYL SIMONENKO'S BIOGRAPHY

Vasyl Symonenko was raised mainly by his grandparents



His mother worked on a collective farm



His father disappeared immediately after the boy was born



He got a gold medal at school



Faculty of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv



Work in newspapers of Cherkasy region



During his lifetime, he published only one collection "Silence and Thunder" and a fairy tale for children "King Plaksiiy and Loskoton"

He criticised the Soviet government, revealed Stalin's crimes against the Ukrainian people



In 1962, the poet was arrested

Beatings by the police damaged the spine of truthfulness, which accelerated the development of cancer and death (1963)

In 1965, Symonenko was nominated for the Shevchenko Prize

But he received it only 30 years later, in independent Ukraine, posthumously



You know that you're a human,
Do you know it or not?
Your smile's unique,
Your suffering's unique,
Your eyes are the only ones.

There won't be another you,
Tomorrow on this land,
Other people will tread,
Other people will love –
Kind, tender, and harsh.

Today, everything's for you –
The lakes, the groves, the steppes.
You must hurry to live,
You must hurry to love –
Make sure you don't oversleep!

For you on the Earth – you're a human,
Whether you want it or not.
Your smile's unique,
Your suffering's unique,
Your eyes are the only ones.



NOTES

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