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**POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
OF VOLODYMYR PUTIN IN ANECDOTES OF
MYTHOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS CHARACTER**

**ПОЛІТИЧНЕ ЛІДЕРСТВО
ВОЛОДИМИРА ПУТІНА В АНЕКДОТАХ
МІФОЛОГІЧНОГО ТА РЕЛІГІЙНОГО
ХАРАКТЕРУ**

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This article examines Vladimir Putin's political leadership in anecdotes of mythological and religious character. Anecdotal stories about the President of Russia are so widespread and diverse that in this article the author decided to focus his research interest on religious mythology. The purpose of the article is to focus on Putin's political leadership in anecdotes about religion. Among the research methods: concrete-historical and theoretical-journalistic, problem-confessional and visual-anthropological. The process of religious myth-construction of political leadership continues on the example of the Russian president, Vladimir Putin is accused of creating a national mythological picture of the world, drawing his own axes of good and evil, truth and lies, holiness and demonism, heaven and hell and immerse the whole world into them.

Keywords: political leadership, religious mythology, Vladimir Putin, anecdotes about religion, mythologizing.

В даній статті досліджується політичне лідерство Володимира Путіна в анекдотах міфологічного та релігійного характеру. Анекдотичні сюжети про Президента Росії настільки широко поширені і різноманітні, що в даній статті автор вирішила зосередити свій дослідницький інтерес на релігійній міфології. Мета статті - зосередити увагу на політичному лідерстві В. Путіна в анекдотах про релігію. Серед методів дослідження: конкретно-історичний та теоретико-журналістський, проблемно-конфесійний і візуально-антропологічний. Процес релігійного міфоконструювання політичного лідерства продовжується на прикладі російського президента, В.Путіну інкримінується прагнення створити національну міфологічну картину світу, намалювати власні осі добра і зла, істини і брехні, святості і демонізму, раю і пекла і занурити в них увесь світ.

Ключові слова: політичне лідерство, релігійна міфологія, Володимир Путін, анекдоти про релігію, міфологізація.

(стаття друкується мовою оригіналу)

When studying the processes taking place in the modern Russian Federation, it is advisable to put the political leadership of Vladimir Putin on the example of jokes about religion in the focus of research interest. Anecdotal stories about the President of Russia are so widespread and diverse, including social, historical, political, legal, military, economic, technological, cosmological, medical, environmental, energy, gender, etc., that in this article the author decided to focus her research interest on religious mythology.

President of Russia Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin (VVP) quite often becomes a hero of anecdotal motives and variations - the confirmation of this thesis is the unimaginable amount of fabulous and mystical materials, "putinisms" and "pies" on this subject, anecdotes of all kinds of genres and myths, superstitions and legends, fairy tales and sagas, and similar stories [1; 2]. The mythological aspect of Putin's activities can be illustrated by the following joke: "- Grandma, tell a tale about Koshchei. - There is no longer Koshchei, instead of him is now Putin the Immortal and company: trained Medvedev, goblin Chubais, werewolf Gryzlov, Valentina-kikimora and other evil spirits ... [3] According to another joke, during a direct line with the President of Russia "Visiting a Fairy Tale" a question was asked: - Uncle Vova, are you really real? To which there was an answer: "No, girl, I am fabulous" [4].

The mythological perception of the President of Russia can also be represented by the following examples:

- When VVP picks its nose, it always finds gold there.
- Aliens never flew to Earth because they were not allowed by VVP.
- Superman and Spider-Man secretly put on a suit of VVP under their costumes.
- When a cobra stings VVP, it dies in agony within three days.
- That's VVP who took Noah into the ark.
- When the children go to bed, they look to see if there is Babai under the bed. When Babai goes to bed, he checks to see if there is VVP under the bed.
- If VVP hits the asphalt, blood flows from the asphalt.
- God wanted to create land in 10 days, but VVP gave him time for a week.
- VVP never turns off the light; he turns on the darkness.
- When VVP peels onions, the onions cry.
- VVP can sting a bee.
- There are no extinct species of animals, there are species that VVP allows to live.
- Only VVP can drown fish in water.
- Only VVP can turn off the lights at the end of the tunnel.
- VVP never looks at the clock — he sets the time.
- VVP never lies - everything he says becomes true.
- When VVP is driving, his road is always the main one.
- VVP was the first to visit Mars, so there is no life there [4].

The supernatural abilities of V. Putin due to anecdotal sources, in particular, can be described as follows. "- The press secretary of Vladimir Putin addresses the Western press, says that there will be an important speech by Putin tomorrow, and invites them to the event. "You yourself will see and understand everything", Peskov told reporters. Journalists come to Sochi, Putin comes to them and goes on water. He made a circle, returned to them, looked in silence, and left. The next morning, British newspapers wrote: "Putin does not know how to swim" [5], "Putin's bathing in the ice hole had to be re-shot several times. Vladi-

mir Vladimirovich out of habit walked right on the water...” [6].

It seems that V. Putin has extraordinary potential and extrasensory abilities in particular. According to this kind of anecdotal view, “Putin came to the psychics show and told how things would really be”, Pavel Globa announced that he would predict Putin’s fate. In response, Putin said that in this case he would predict the fate of Pavel and see who will be more accurate in the predictions [6]. “Putin came to the fortune teller, and she tells him: “You will be president only for one summer, then you will not be re-elected. “So there will be no more summer”, Putin answered dryly”. According to such representations, “Representatives of the United Russia political party who emerged from a coma claim to have seen a portrait of Putin in the office of God [4].

Putin’s omnipotence can be characterized in many ways. V. Putin supposedly has the power to even stop the coronavirus pandemic: “- When will this pandemic even end?! - In our country it will end as Putin will say ... “;” - Have you seen the Leaning Tower of Pisa? - Yes. “Putin tipped it,” “Be patient, it’s getting warmer, and Vladimir Vladimirovich will personally raise the ruble from the bottom”, “When it gets get a little warmer, Putin will personally get the Chelyabinsk meteorite from the bottom of Lake Chebarkul,” “- Vladimir Vladimirovich, when will it snow? - Please observe the subordination. Turn to God first”, ““I can’t entrust anything to anyone,” Vladimir Vladimirovich said and climbed to repair the rocket“, “The water level in the flooded regions dropped significantly after Putin took control of the situation”, “Putin’s Black Judo Belt, which according to rumor has incredible miraculous power, is exhibited in one of the halls of the White House. A queue to him from the members of “United Russia”, praying for victory in the Duma elections, was lined up right up to the Moscow River ... “ [4].

To some, Vladimir Putin may seem so omnipotent that he can compete fully with Jesus Christ and even with God himself. As Pavel Grudinin said: “If Jesus Christ were nominated for the presidency, then he would have lost to Putin” [7], “You cannot understand Russia with your mind. - It’s true. For example, to talk with God there, it’s enough to call a direct line with Putin” [8]. “I propose amending the Bible and mentioning Putin in it”, “Putin approved the amendment to the Russian Constitution on God. God breathed a sigh of relief”, Those who joke about Putin’s role in the Great Victory simply do not understand his significance in the Baptism of Russia”, “Now jokes about Putin are not only disrespect for power, but also an insult to the feelings of believers” [4].

Another interesting plot in connection with the President of the Russian Federation is the idea that he is eternal and will remain with the Russian people forever. “Emails from the Kremlin began to end in ominous words: ...Always your president, V. V. Putin,” “Western media call Putin —Vladimir the Eternal”, “according to the CEC, Vladimir Putin is the leader by a wide margin. Putin said he would act like a pope. Will leave at 85 years old“, “Putin, he is as chosen as Neo. The Matrix chose both of them...”, “To ask Putin

to remove Medvedev is even more stupid than to ask the Virgin Maria to remove Putin”, “In Jordan, Vladimir Putin visited the Church of the Nativity of Christ. After this, a press conference was held at which the local journalist asked Vladimir Vladimirovich two questions at once: when, according to Putin, will the Second Coming of Christ take place? And how long will Mr Putin still be president of Russia? “I will give one answer to your two questions,” said the VVP. “I will remain the Russian president until the Second Coming of Christ...” [4].

It should be noted that there are many mythological plots about the Russian president related to paradise. “Khrushchev:” The current generation will live under communism.” Gorbachev: “In separate apartments.” Putin: “In Paradise!” ” “-It is strange that in the USA everyone scolds his president, and the American economy is growing. And in our country, we pray for the president, as for God, and the economy is in stagnation”, “Without Putin we will go to the 1990s, and with Putin to Paradise, I personally choose the 1990s ”, “ Putin on Valdai declares: - In the event of a nuclear war, the Russians will go to heaven! Question from the audience: - And where will those Russians who do not believe in God and Paradise go? - How to where? To jail for insulting the feelings of believers!”, “- I have two news for you, one good, the other bad. - Vladimir Vladimirovich, let’s have a good one. “I have booked a cozy place for you all in Paradise.” - And a bad one? “Well, it’s time to pack up,” “140 million Russians have gone to heaven. They are told: “There are really many of you: you can also elect a president here.” They rejoiced, shouting: “Putin! We want Putin!”. And they are answered: “You cannot choose Putin. He has not yet arrived in our paradise. He has a strong bunker” ” [4].

Accordingly, there are also mythological plots of the Russian presidency of Vladimir Putin regarding the end of the world. “The Lord God called for Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump and Bill Gates. And he said to them: - Next Thursday I will arrange the end of the world. Putin came to Moscow, gathered a government and said: “Gentlemen, I have two unpleasant news.” Firstly, there really is a God, and secondly, Russia does not lead a Christian way of life, and therefore the Father promised to punish us by arranging the end of the world this coming Thursday. Trump spoke in Congress and said: - Gentlemen, I have two news for you: one good and one bad. First, the American people are doing a golden thing, believing in the Lord - he really is. And secondly, the United States went the wrong way of development and the Lord will arrange the end of the world next Thursday, if we do not improve. Bill Gates has put together the entire leadership of Microsoft and says: - Gentlemen, I have two news for you - good and excellent. Firstly, I became a friend of the Lord God himself, who from now on will inviting me to all his secret assemblies and meetings. Secondly, - here a vengeful expression appeared on his face, - Linux will die next Thursday” [6].

According to some existing mythological views, Putin has a peculiar vision of his power. “Putin really does not like everything that happens in the country, and he resurrects Stalin. Stalin wakes up and comes

to a government meeting. He listens to all reports on the situation in the country and says: "Well, in general, everything is clear. Two things must be done. The first is to paint the Kremlin green. The second is to shoot everyone who was on Bolotnaya Square." Putin asks him: "Why green?" - "I am glad that there were no questions regarding the second point" [9].

There is an idea of a specific self-esteem characteristic of Vladimir Putin, according to which he is going to resurrect after his death according to the Christian paradigm. In one of the jokes "Putin gathers his close people..." "I am dying, guys. It's necessary to somehow bury me with dignity. To remember me"... He is offered to bury him in the Mausoleum, in St. Peter's Basilica, but such options categorically do not suit him. "-Vladimir Vladimirovich, now you will certainly be satisfied. We agreed with the Jews. In the Church of the Holy Sepulcher we will bury you. In fact, we'll put you in the Holy Sepulchre. . But there's a problem. Jews are asking for money. Apparently, Putin became interested: - How much? "Five trillion," Sechin answers. "Five trillion in three days?!" Well, the Jews, well, the nation" [10].

The Muslim aspect of Putin's activities may be that "Putin has divorced so as not to offend the feelings of believers. Kadyrov whispered to him that Allah should not have a wife!", "Barack Obama calls Putin in a panic: - Volodya, you are bombing the wrong terrorists! "Barak, Allah will understand" [4].

However, judging by the material studied, the mythological views of Vladimir Putin may contain completely infernal motives. So, according to similar views, "The Devil sold his soul to Putin", "Following the example of Putin, distancing himself from United Russia, the devil said that he had nothing to do with hell and always acted as an independent devil", "Now it became clear that the most difficult task of image-makers of Vladimir Vladimirovich is to disguise his overgrown horns, tail and hooves", "Putin died. God tells him: - I'll let you to Paradise, but through Purgatory. There the devils will torture you as many times as you were president. Putin was delighted: for Paradise's sake six times is not a lot. They brought him to hell, he looks - there is Tereshkova. He asks: - And why? Devils to him: "And she will nullify the account" [4].

Finally, we give one more joke of an infernal nature. "President Bush, Chirac and Putin got to hell after death: they sit, bask, remember. Suddenly, Bush discovers a mobile phone in his pocket and wonders from the warden - if he can call Washington. -Well, if the Devil himself allows, he says - no problem. Bush turns to the Devil, he says - please: five minutes - \$ 2 million. Bush writes out a check and communicates with our world for five minutes, finds out news, sends greetings. Looking at this, Chirac had a desire to talk with Paris, "Quite simply," says the Devil, "I allow ten minutes, the fee is \$ 5 million." Chirac writes a check, communicates. Here the Russian president comes up to the Devil: - Can I call Moscow? "Though now, says the Devil, I allow two hours, the fee is 10 roubles." "Thank you, Putin says, but why is it so cheap compared to colleagues?" "Oh, Volodya," the Devil answers, "but you and your predecessor turned Russia

into hell, so we have not an international but a local line with Moscow, and the tariff is appropriate" [6].

Based on the materials presented in this article, we can conclude that the process of religious myth construction of political leadership continues on the example of the Russian president. Putin is charged with the desire to create a national mythological picture of the world, to draw his own axis of good and evil, truth and falsehood, holiness and demonism, paradise and hell, and immerse the rest of the world in them. The mythological reservoir has a largely political nature, and the religious history of our time is enriched with anecdotal stories, in particular, on the topic of the Russian presidency of VVP.

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