



TOLSTOY AND THE PROBLEM OF THE MEANING OF LIFE

Dilbar Gulyamovna Sharipova

Lecturer, Department of Russian

Language and Literature, Faculty of Philology,

Bukhara State University, Bukhara, Uzbekistan.

[**dilbargulyamovna123@gmail.com**](mailto:dilbargulyamovna123@gmail.com).

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20725168>

Abstract: The combination of intellect, emotions and spiritual potential is the essence of spirituality. What is the meaning of a person's coming into this world? What is the essence of human life? These questions have always been pondered by the great thinkers and philosophers of the world, seeking answers to spiritual problems. The great writer Leo Tolstoy in his work "Confession" dwells on the meaning of human life, on his deep observations on faith, on the place and role of religion in his life, looking for answers to spiritual problems that torment great geniuses.

Key words: puzzle, simplicity, humanity, education, teacher, problem, spirituality, autobiography, sincerity.

Among the writers and scholars who have lived throughout human history, only a few have left a truly significant mark on the spiritual and intellectual development of humanity. One of such outstanding figures is **Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy**. Although more than a hundred years have passed since his death, his fame and influence continue to grow. It would hardly be an exaggeration to say that today there is no country in the world where his works and ideas have not reached.

As time has passed, many aspects of life have become outdated; even numerous traditional values have been replaced by new values, new beliefs, and new concepts. Yet Tolstoy, who was recognized during his lifetime as the “Teacher of Humanity,” continues to inspire generations across the world through the enduring relevance of his thoughts and literary legacy.



A special place in the creative legacy of Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy belongs to his novels *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Resurrection*, which have become not only masterpieces of Russian literature but also treasures of world culture. In these works, the writer profoundly explored the inner world of human beings, the moral problems of society, and the questions of good and evil, the meaning of life, and the purpose of the individual. Here is the English translation in an academic style suitable for your article:

Recognized during his lifetime as the leading figure of Russian literature, Leo Tolstoy's work marked a new stage in both Russian and world realism, serving as a bridge between the classical nineteenth-century novel and the literature of the twentieth century. Tolstoy exerted a profound influence on the development of European humanism and on the evolution of realist traditions in world literature. His works have been adapted for film and stage numerous times, while his plays have been performed in theaters around the world. Between 1918 and 1986, Tolstoy was the most widely published author in the Soviet Union, with a total circulation of 436.261 million copies across 3,199 editions.

Among Tolstoy's most famous works are the novels *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Resurrection*; the autobiographical trilogy *Childhood*, *Boyhood*, and *Youth*; the novellas *The Cossacks*, *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*, *The Kreutzer Sonata*, *Father Sergius*, and *Hadji Murat*; the cycle of sketches *Sevastopol Sketches*; the dramas *The Living Corpse*, *The Fruits of Enlightenment*, and *The Power of Darkness*; the autobiographical religious and philosophical works *A Confession* and *What I Believe*; as well as the anti-war writings *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*, *Bethink Yourselves!*, and *The Law of Violence and the Law of Love*, among many others.

Tolstoy possessed a unique ability to penetrate the deepest corners of the human soul. His characters are neither idealized nor one-dimensional; on the contrary, they undergo a complex journey of spiritual searching, make mistakes, suffer, and strive for moral perfection. This is precisely why his works remain relevant and meaningful to readers of different eras and cultures.



Tolstoy's philosophical and publicistic writings are also of great significance. During the last decades of his life, he devoted particular attention to issues of morality, religion, education, and social justice. His ideas of nonviolence, love for one's fellow human beings, and spiritual self-improvement had a considerable influence on many outstanding public figures around the world, including Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr..

Tolstoy's творчество represents not only artistic value but also an important source of moral guidance for modern society. In an era of rapid social change and global challenges, his calls for humanism, compassion, and responsibility toward others continue to retain their relevance.

Thus, Lev Tolstoy is rightfully regarded as one of the greatest writers in world literature. His works continue to inspire millions of readers, while his ideas remain an important part of humanity's spiritual heritage. Ниже приведено логичное продолжение статьи на английском языке:

Another remarkable aspect of Tolstoy's legacy is his understanding of education and human development. He believed that true education should not be limited to the transmission of knowledge but should also foster moral growth, independent thinking, and respect for human dignity. These views led him to establish schools for peasant children and to experiment with innovative teaching methods that were far ahead of their time.

Tolstoy's influence extends far beyond the sphere of literature. His philosophical ideas have inspired scholars, educators, religious thinkers, and social reformers across the world. Even today, researchers continue to study his works, discovering new dimensions of his artistic mastery and philosophical vision. His writings have been translated into dozens of languages, making them accessible to readers from different cultural backgrounds.

The enduring popularity of Tolstoy can be explained by the universal nature of the questions he addressed. Love and family, faith and doubt, war and peace, justice and



responsibility—these themes remain central to human existence regardless of historical period or geographical location. Through his works, readers are encouraged to reflect on their own lives and to seek deeper moral and spiritual values.

Furthermore, Tolstoy's literary style is distinguished by its psychological depth, realism, and attention to detail. He created vivid and memorable characters whose experiences reflect the complexities of real life. This extraordinary ability to portray human emotions and relationships has secured his place among the most influential authors in the history of world literature.

In conclusion, the significance of Lev Tolstoy's contribution cannot be measured solely by the number of his works or their literary achievements. His greatest legacy lies in his profound understanding of human nature and his unwavering commitment to moral truth. For this reason, his works continue to serve as a source of wisdom, inspiration, and ethical reflection for people throughout the world.

In conclusion, Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy remains one of the most influential figures in world literature and intellectual history. His literary masterpieces, philosophical reflections, and moral teachings have transcended national and cultural boundaries, continuing to inspire readers and scholars around the globe. Through his profound exploration of human nature, ethical values, and the meaning of life, Tolstoy created works that remain relevant in every age.

The enduring significance of his legacy lies in its universal humanistic message. His ideas of compassion, moral responsibility, nonviolence, and spiritual self-improvement continue to address the challenges of contemporary society. Therefore, the study of Tolstoy's life and works not only deepens our understanding of literary history but also contributes to the ongoing search for moral and spiritual values in the modern world.

REFERENCES:

1. Leo Tolstoy. *War and Peace*. Moscow: Eksmo, 2020.
2. Leo Tolstoy. *Anna Karenina*. Moscow: AST Publishers, 2021.



3. Leo Tolstoy. *Resurrection*. Moscow: Eksmo, 2019.
4. Leo Tolstoy. *A Confession and Other Religious Writings*. London: Penguin Classics, 1987.
5. Henri Troyat. *Tolstoy*. New York: Grove Press, 2001.