

Title: On the Question of Salvation in Elena Shvarts's Prose and Poetry
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In the 1973 essay "Vid na suschestvovanie ili put' cherez kol'tso" ("A view on existence or a path through a circle") Elena Shvarts presents her philosophical and religious perspective on the question of salvation. According to the poet, God created the world and earthly existence to give demons (fallen Angels) a chance for redemption. For her, a human does not exist; the human body is only a container for a fallen soul. The philosophical and religious outlook of Shvarts's essay also manifests itself particularly in the poem "Sonata temnoty" ("Sonata of darkness") (1975) shows close correspondence with the images and ideas in Shvarts's essay. However, despite imagery and thematical closeness of both texts, in her poem, Shvarts questions some of her earlier views: a possibility of salvation through acts of free will. In my paper, I will closely examine the interrelation of the images of darkness, illness, and decay presented both in her poetic and prosaic texts. I will also analyze and discuss the divergences from Shvarts's original view on salvation.