

Tragic works have accompanied the Western civilization from its very beginnings. The great tragedies of Sophocles, Euripides and Shakespeare have had a strong influence on our culture. The problem of the tragic was also eagerly taken up by philosophers, who have created many interpretations and attempts to discover its essence over the centuries. The philosophical interpretation of the tragedy leads to many interesting, detailed issues, one of which is discussed in this project.

The main goal of the study is to answer a question which has so far remained unanswered – can communities act as the agents of a tragedy? In order to engage in a detailed, scientific discussion about the tragedy, the author of the project will first attempt to develop a clear concept of the tragedy. It will be based largely on the intuitions of Aristotle and Max Scheler, with emphasis on the role of tragic knowledge.

Usually, the hero of a tragedy tries to prevent the fate foretold by the oracle. He takes various steps to prevent misfortune. Paradoxically, because of these actions, his tragic fate becomes reality. The key factor in this system is the awareness of the tragic hero. The first glimpse of tragedy occurs when he learns his own future fate. However, the tragic knowledge is only complete when the tragic hero realizes that he is entangled in the tragedy.

If we assume that communities can play the role of a tragic hero, another question follows – can a community possess tragic knowledge? Can the mechanism of realizing one's own tragic fate occur in communities?

The research will include an analysis of a specific group of works, which can potentially involve collectives. These will be dramatic works written by three Polish national poets – A. Mickiewicz, J. Słowacki, and Z. Krasiński. The analysis of the works together with the research of scientific literature in the field of literary studies and philosophy will show the communities and their ways of constituting themselves. An inquiry into this process will help to identify a possible carrier of tragic knowledge, the presence of which will legitimize the community as the agent of the tragedy.

The results of the research can be widely used in the debate on the subject of collectivity and the identity structure of a person. Further research may concern the experience of tragedy in communities and its impact on the construction of identity. The project will also present a philosophical conception of tragedy and tools that can be used in research on tragedy. Moreover, philosophical research on Romanticism in Poland will be enriched. The works of Polish poets of that period will be developed philosophically and it will be possible to include them in a broad philosophical discourse.

The expected result of the research is the publication of a monograph and accompanying articles in an international journal. As part of popular science activities, a series of radio broadcasts on the issues raised in the project will be recorded and made public on the website of Radio Filozoficzne Sed Contra (<http://radio.filozoficzne.pl/>).