

Oleg Bybyk: Your choice for future job: Ukraine or abroad?

Abroad is a choice for my near future but for the sake of Ukraine's distant one. This is my motto for my life after graduation. You can say that this is the best answer: the golden middle as Aristotle did say. But human being is characterized more as something uncertain than as something specific. The same is in my case.

I am the citizen of Ukraine who was born and lived 5 years in Soviet Union, who all his life saw his parents having problems with getting enough money for food, clothes and children's education and who was once abroad. Now I try to forecast my future. I don't say that this is bad. This is very good. But here it is very dangerous because I even don't know for how many percents I'm able to forecast my tomorrow's day schedule. And here I try to forecast my future. Why it is so dangerous? It is so dangerous because I have in my mind two coinciding aspects. In the left hemisphere of my brain there is an image of economically unstable Ukraine with low salaries, unsecured social life, political instability, bad living conditions, bribes in education etc. But this image for me is also an image of my motherland where is my home, where lives my family, where I don't have to think on the stress and inflexion of each word because I speak this language subconsciously, where I feel myself very confident and comfortable and I have a natural right to call this land MINE. This is my reality; this is what I feel and see every day of my life.

In the right hemisphere of my brain there is an another image, the image of socially protected community, economically rich and politically stable civilization, full of money, material goods, technologies, etc., one word – the paradise on the earth. But I know that there I'll always feel myself emotionally an alien who came there and has less natural rights to be there (and this is, as for me, true because I left my country where I was fixed to live, where I was called to create), there I will always dream about my country, so free and MINE. This is my stereotype, the stereotype that I hear from my friends, people in public transport. There it is always better than here.

What will prevail? This is the question! My heart which gives me so sweet memories and associations about my country, which says 'this is your habitat'; my mind which together with my physical body calls to burn inside of me the instinct of self-preservation and always makes me doubting or I'll keep the golden middle – find the strength in myself to go westwards, just forward, through Europe, America, Asia into Ukraine?

These are thoughts that always spring up in my mind when I think about my future abroad or in Ukraine. The same thoughts may appear in other young people. They are the results of our everyday reality and stereotypes. I think that people have to break down their stereotypes by themselves. Person has to have in its heart the feeling of not only their own country but also another, called better. Person have to compare and understand what for her is better and where does she feel herself at home. Person has two make her own choice! And there is no reason which one. The reason is to make choice not between something that she sees and something that she hears but between two equivalents. So, there is no fear to go abroad because I was already there. I had a chance to compare abroad and home. I had a chance to feel myself very extraordinary, to find a lot of artificial around me. I had also enough time to start missing my land and to renew emotions about Ukraine that weakened before. I had also realized all Ukraine's problems from outside and felt them more. But there is a fear to forget the main idea of going abroad – Ukraine, to forget because I envy people who are materially confident in their future, who know that their salaries are enough not only to 'survive' but also to effort something more. I envy people who have money because they feel free. I know why I want to go abroad – to study for the future of Ukraine. But still I feel the danger to stay and live there. I want to do this because it's the easiest way to solve the majority of my problems back home around me – to forget them; to throw them out and don't think about it, to start my life where there are no dirty streets like in my country, there are no all these, for the first sight, bad and awful things

that make people emigrate.

Here in myself struggle three things. One is my unhappy reality that I fill every day, that calls me to change it, not to be afraid to give an answer, to solve the problems. And this is what I know for sure, for 100%. And such clarity kills me every moment, as knowledge about my future death that I know will come next moment. I think: 'Why I have always to suffer, to struggle, to live for not having time for myself?' The second is a stereotype of western civilization that people live there so sweet, easy, without problems and duties. I don't know whether it is true even for 10% but it's like a magnet which balances all my real minuses by its unreal pluses. It gives me hope that I'll live for myself and there will be no need to show my position. The third thing is in me not only mentally but also physically. My lungs and my brain "get used" to Ukrainian air, soil, climate, food. Here I'm like a fish in water. Which will dominate? Now I don't know because it's my future and I am a human being – Errare humanun est (lat. people can be wrong). But I believe and I'll do everything to stay in the middle.