DROKACADEMY · Stand With Ukraine Global Edition



The Power of Taras Shevchenko Poetry

for Language Learning, Personal Growth, and Community Transformation

First Edition, revised October 2026

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Love. Care. Share.

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The first edition remains the author's edition and will keep being updated. Second editions are written with co-authors who have lived experience; where they see a matter differently, each view is shown with its sources.

AI tools supported the research and drafting of this book. That support was substantial and I am grateful for it. I read and proofread the book myself, and every idea and every decision in it remains my responsibility.

Songs and poems still under copyright are described, not reproduced; links to performances and lyrics are in the references.

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Introduction: Embark on a Transformative Journey Through Shevchenko's Poetic Legacy



Photo E.1. *A statuette of Taras Shevchenko, labelled 1969.*

Dear Friends,

It is with great excitement that I invite you to delve into the captivating world of Taras Shevchenko's poetry through this groundbreaking book, "The Power of Taras Shevchenko Poetry for Language Learning, Personal Growth, and Community Transformation." This comprehensive guide is designed to take you on a transformative journey, where you will not only explore the richness of Shevchenko's works but also discover practical ways to harness their power for personal and societal growth.

As you turn the pages, you will uncover Shevchenko poetry that has been used by song-writers to share their musical talents and share Shevchenko words through songs, gaining a deeper understanding of the social, political, and cultural influences that inspired his timeless verses. Through insightful review of multiple ways how

Shevchenko words were used in song creations, you will appreciate the intricacies of his craft and the profound emotions woven into each line.

But this book goes beyond mere appreciation. It equips you with practical tools and strategies to integrate Shevchenko's poetry into your language learning journey, personal development, and community engagement efforts. By offering a bilingual approach, the book makes Shevchenko's works accessible to a wide audience, celebrating the beauty and complexity of the Ukrainian language while fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Whether you are a language enthusiast eager to enhance your skills, an individual seeking personal growth and inspiration, or a community leader striving to create positive change, this book will be your guide. It showcases the enduring relevance of Shevchenko's poetry and its potential to transform lives and communities.

I invite you to embark on this exciting resistance journey, where you will not only deepen your appreciation for Shevchenko's poetic legacy but also discover the power within yourself to effect change. Let his words ignite your passion, fuel your resilience, and inspire you to become an agent of transformation in your own life and the lives of others.

Join me in celebrating the timeless wisdom of Ukraine's greatest poet and the transformative potential of his works. Together, let us harness the power of poetry to bridge divides, foster understanding, and create a brighter future for all.

In solidarity and growth,

Sasha

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Бандуристе, Орле Сизий

Banduryste, Orle Syzyi: Bandura Player Grey Eagle

Ukrainian text

Бандуристе, орле сизий!
Добре тобі, брате:
Маєш крила, маєш силу,
Є коли літати.

Тепер летиш в Україну —
Тебе виглядають.
Полетів би за тобою,
Та хто привітає.

Я й тут чужий, одинокий,
І на Україні
Я сирота, мій голубе,
Як і на чужині.

Чого ж серце б'ється, рветься?
Я там одинокий.
Одинокий... а Украйна!
А степи широкі!

Там повіє буйнесенький,
Як брат, заговорить;
Там в широкім полі воля;
Там синєє море

Вигравае, хвалить бога,
Тугу розганяє;
Там могили з буйним вітром
В степу розмовляють,

Розмовляють сумуючи,
Отака їх мова:
"Було колись — минулося,
Не вернеться знову".

Полетів би, послухав би,
Заплакав би з ними...
Та ба, доля приборкала
Меж людьми чужими.

English translation

Bandura player, gray eagle!
Good for you, brother:
You have wings, you have strength,
You have time to fly.

Now you fly to Ukraine.
They're waiting for you.
I would fly after you,
But who will greet you?

I'm a stranger here too, a loner,
And in the Ukraine
I am an orphan, my dear,
Just as I am in a foreign land.

Why is my heart beating and tearing?
I am alone there.
Lonely... and Ukraine!
And the steppes are wide!

There the wild wind will blow,
He will speak like a brother;
There is freedom in the wide field;
There is a blue sea.

Sparkles, praises God,
And dispels the longing;
There are graves with a violent wind
In the steppe talk,

Talking in sorrow,
This is their language:
"It was once - it's gone,
It will not come back again."

I would fly and listen to them,
I would have wept with them...
But fate tamed me Between strangers.

Full text

Read the full text: «Н. Маркевичу» (N. Markevychu, "To N. Markevych"), in *Kobzar* (n.d.), https://t-shevchenko.name/uk/Kobzar/1840/Markevich.html

Listen

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=830NWqMnpYg
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZR4pDrV12X4

Блажен муж

Blazhen muzh: Blessed is the Person

Ukrainian text

Блаженний муж на лукаву
Не вступає раду,
І не стане на путь злого,
І з лютим не сяде.

А в законі Господньому
Серце його й воля
Навчається, і стане він,
Як на добрім полі

Над водою посажене
Древо зеленіє,
Плодом вкрите.
Так і муж той
В добрі своїм спіє.

А лукавих, нечестивих
І слід пропадає,
Як той попіл над землею
Вітер розмахає.

І не встануть з праведними
Злії з домовини,
Діла добрих оновляться,
Діла злих загинуть.

English translation

Blessed is the person who does not take counsel with the wicked
He does not take counsel,
He will not go into the way of the wicked,
Nor sits down with the fierce.

But in the law of the Lord
His heart and his will
He learns, and he will be
As in a good field

Planted by the water
The tree grows green,
Covered with fruit.
So will this man
In his goodness ripens.

But the wicked, the wicked
And the trace disappears,
As the ashes over the earth
The wind blows.

And they will not rise with the righteous
The wicked will not rise from the grave,
The deeds of the good will be renewed,
The deeds of the wicked will perish.

Full text

Read the full text: «Давидові псалми» (Davydovi psalmy, "The Psalms of David"), Psalm 1, in *Kobzar* (n.d.), https://t-shevchenko.name/uk/Kobzar/1845/Psalmy/1.html

Listen

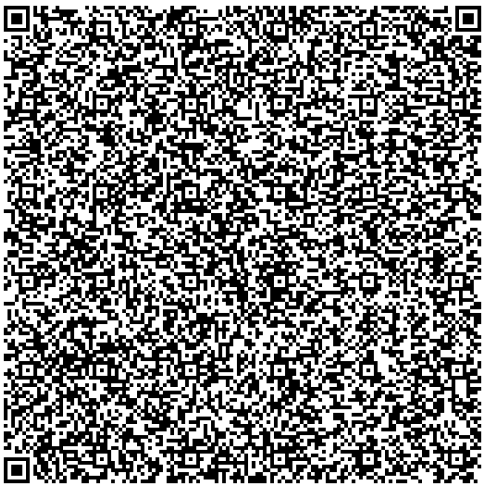
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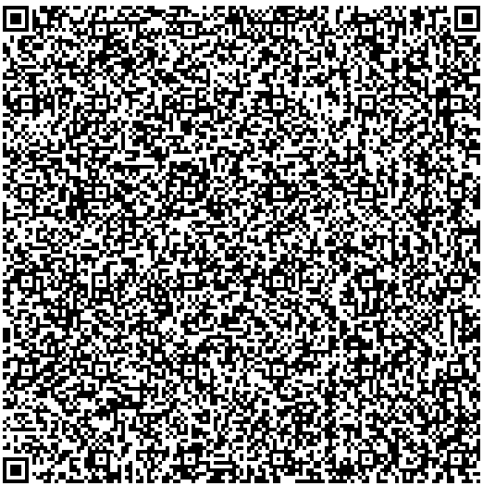
The full book is available at krasun.ca.

Teachers and community groups can request a review copy:
sasha@drokacademy.ca

Sing along with the performances linked in the book



Songs 1 to 31
50 videos



Songs 32 to 60
50 videos



Songs 60 to 75
28 videos