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# NEVER BEFORE № 41



**In this issue:** - Translations of the winners of the Pushkin Translation Contest dedicated to the 225th anniversary of his birth  
- To the Year of the Family: essays by students of natural science departments on the role of family in the modern world

## TO THE SLANDERERS OF RUSSIA

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About what do you, folk gossipers,  
clamor?  
Is that your anathema tempting  
Russia's anger?  
What bothers you? Lithuania's unrest?  
Begone: that dispute is Slavs' interest,  
not yours,  
So common, so as old as time healing  
all the sores  
That has final question yet to put to test.

\*\*\*  
Kremlin and Prague are silent  
in your eyes;  
Struggle with desperation's flattering  
Are poisoning our name with  
pointless lies,  
And hatred is around you scattering...

Though, for what? Tell the reason  
That in the ruins of blazing Moscow  
We did not surrender, but arisen  
Before the man that you bow so low.  
For that we sent the evil serpent  
Into the pit of darkness and despair  
And with our blood redeemed ardent  
Liberty and honor under Europe's  
glair?..

Your looming words do not define  
your deeds.  
Is old bogatyr laying in his bed  
without needs  
Unable to fight for Ismail again?  
Does the word of Russian tsar hold  
no power?  
Is it late for European quarrel hour?  
Has Russian man weaned form  
victories then?

\*\*\*  
You may send your vicious sons,  
O gossipers of foreign lands.  
There's a place for them, when it comes  
To the familiar tombs buried in sands.  
**Leonid ULYANOV**  
AMM Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> year student  
**FIRST PLACE**

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Why do you seek to bring us shame?  
What troubles you, what do you fear?  
Is it the whispers of Lithuania that  
you hear?  
But this is a Slavic matter, old and true,  
A dispute between kin, not for you  
to pursue.  
History has weighed this question before,  
It's not for outsiders to settle the score.

The Kremlin and Prague, they do not heed,  
Your words of malice, your hearts of greed.  
Do you not see the courage we possess,  
In the face of adversity, we will not regress.

Why do you hate us, what is the cause?  
Have we not stood against tyrants  
and laws?  
In the ashes of Moscow, we stood tall,  
Defying all who sought to make us fall.

We have paid the price for Europe's peace,  
Our sacrifices will never cease.  
So if you are bold in your words  
and threats,  
Come face us in battle, see where it gets.

For the Russian spirit is strong and true,  
Our victories are many, our resolve anew.  
So send your sons, let them come,  
To the fields of Russia, where battles  
are won.

Among the fallen, they'll find their place,  
In the land of warriors, where honor  
we embrace.  
For those who seek to vilify our name,  
Know that Russia will always remain.

**Alisa SEMENIKHINA**  
Department of Romance  
and Germanic Philology,  
2<sup>nd</sup> year student  
**SECOND PLACE**

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Why raise your voices, public  
mouthpiece?  
Why hurl anathemas, breathe threats  
beneath?  
What stirs your rage? Lithuania's woes?  
Oh, leave it be, these Slavic throes,  
Historic dispute, fate's final throws,  
A question you cannot impose.

For you, the Kremlin and Prague stand  
still,  
In vain you're lured by battle's thrill,  
By desperate courage, you stay blind  
And hatred towards us you find.

But why? Give answer: for what crime,  
That among Moscow's fiery prime,  
Refused to bow to blatant rule  
Of those who you once feared, so cruel?  
Is it for toppling idols high?  
For plunging to the depths, and by  
Our blood redeeming Europe's pride,  
Freedom, honor, peace allied?

Your threats are spoken words —  
try action's grace!  
Or is the braveheart, in his resting place,  
Unable to twist his Izmail blade?  
Or is the word of Russian Tzar to fade?  
Or hadn't we against the Europe strived?  
Or is the Russian valor lost where once  
it thrived?

\*\*\*  
So send them forth, oh seething crowd,  
Your hostile sons, relentless and loud:  
There is some space for them in Russian  
ground,  
Among familiar graves they will be  
found.

**Anastasiya POPOVA**  
AMM Department,  
2<sup>nd</sup> year student  
**SECOND PLACE**

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What are you clamoring about, people's  
winds?  
Why do you threaten Russia with  
anathema's binds?  
What has stirred you up? Lithuania's  
commotion?  
Leave it: this is a dispute among Slavic kin,  
An old, family dispute, already weighed  
by fate's spin,  
A question that you won't resolve.

The Kremlin and Prague are silent for you;  
In vain does the desperate courage allure,  
And you hate us, it's true...

And for what? Reply: is it because  
On the ruins of burning Moscow's might,  
We refused to yield to a tyrant's sight,  
Under whom you trembled in fright?  
For casting him into the abyss deep  
and wide,  
The idol looming over realms with pride,  
With our blood, we redeemed and sanctified,  
Europe's freedom, honor, and peace  
worldwide?

You're fierce with your words —  
try to prove it indeed!  
Can an old hero, now resting in bed,  
Not muster the strength to wield his  
Ismailian blade?  
Is the word of the Russian tsar now weak  
and frail?  
Or is it a new thing for us to quarrel  
with Europe?  
Or have the Russians forgotten how  
to prevail?

So send us your angry sons, oh Vityazi bold,  
There's a place for them in Russia's fields  
to hold,  
Among the graves where they'll feel no chill,  
Among comrades who share their will.

**Kristina ULEZKO**  
Pharmaceutical Department,  
2<sup>nd</sup> year student  
**THIRD PLACE**



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Why all this uproar, populist winds  
that sway?  
Why cast anathemas towards Russia's way?  
What stirs you so? Lithuania's agitation?  
Let it rest, this Slavic dispute's relation,  
A domestic quarrel, fate's already ordained,  
An issue you shan't resolve, however  
strained.

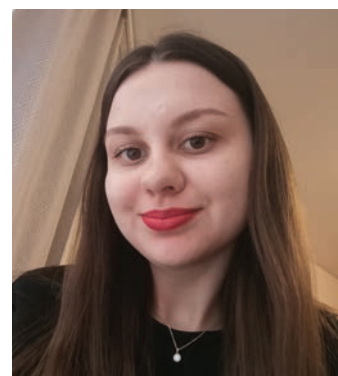
For you, the Kremlin and Prague remain  
mute,  
The valor of struggles fails to dilute —  
Yet deep-seated spite you still commute...

But why? Answer truly: for our defiance,  
perchance,  
To bow to the will of those who once did  
advance,  
O'er smoldering ruins of Moscow, in their  
haughty trance?  
For casting down idols, towering and vain,  
With our blood, we've paid for Europe's  
freedom, honor, and reign...

Your threats are fierce in words —  
let deeds proclaim!  
Or is the old warrior, resting in peace,  
truly lame,  
Unable to wield his Ismailian fame?  
Or has the Russian czar lost his voice,  
his light?  
Shall we not stand against Europe's plight?  
Or has the Russian spirit dimmed in its fight?

Then send forth, O whirlwinds,  
your embittered kin,  
There's room for them amidst Russia's  
kith and skin,  
Among graves not alien, but akin.

**Ilya EKTOV**  
Computer Science Department,  
1<sup>st</sup> year student  
**THIRD PLACE**





*As the current year is declared the Year of the Family in Russia English Chair for Science Departments asked first year students of science departments to speculate on the role of family in the modern world. About 1100 students wrote essays on this topic. Today we publish some of them.*

A family is not just a relationship between relatives, it is a whole world in which the personality of each of its members develops. It is a place where the core values, skills and beliefs that determine people's behavior and attitudes in society are formed.

Key aspects of the role of the family:

1) Parenting. Parents play an important role in shaping the personality and character of their children. They pass on knowledge, values, and teach them how to interact with the world around them correctly. In the family, children learn to communicate, resolve conflicts, love, forgive, be tolerant and take care of others. This helps children develop as individuals and become full-fledged members of society.

2) The family plays an important role in supporting and protecting its members. In a world where there are so many stresses and challenges, the family becomes a pillar and a bulwark where you can turn in difficult moments, find understanding, support and comfort. Close relationships within the family create an atmosphere of trust and understanding, which helps people feel protected and confident.

3) Cultural heritage is also preserved thanks to the family. It is in the family where we learn to respect and appreciate our heritage – traditions, customs, and stories that connect us with our past. This helps to preserve the uniqueness of the culture and the identity of the people.

Thus, family plays an invaluable role in the life of every person and society as a whole. It is a foundation for personal development, support in difficult times and a repository of cultural heritage. Without a family, we would be deprived of the most important thing – love and care. Therefore, it is important to appreciate and respect your family, because it is the basis of our existence and the key to the harmonious development of personality and society.

**Alexander ISAEV,**  
*Mathematics Department*

Family is one of the most important parts of modern society. Since ancient times, family has been considered the basis of society, and this has not lost its significance in our time. Family relations, communication with close people, support and education in the family have a huge impact on a person. But can a family badly affect a person and his/her behavior in the society?

Nowadays it is easy to find an answer to this question. If you search the Internet for information about criminals, read their biographies and delve into the history of their childhood, you can learn that often

# The Role of Family in the Modern World

cruelty comes from dysfunctional families, where there is violence, distrust, lack of mutual understanding between the child and parents. Children growing up in such circumstances may have difficulty establishing healthy relationships, may be prone to aggression, their understanding of right and wrong is blurred, they often lack empathy and compassion.

As a counter-example, we can consider how a child growing up in a well-to-do family behaves. As a rule, in such families children are surrounded by care and do not lack attention from their parents. Such children grow up to be healthy and well-formed individuals who are able to accurately determine their place in society and distinguish the good and the bad.

Thus, we can say that the family plays a crucial role in the life of a person in the modern world. The values and principles that are accepted in the family determine whether a child grows up to be a healthy and well-formed person or whether he or she will be a threat to society in the future.

**Victoriya PANOVA,**  
*AMM Department*



Family is the one of the most important things a person may have in today's world. From the very childhood families teach us to love, to appreciate values, to feel belonging to a community. They support us emotionally and help us to really come all the way from childhood into adulthood.

When we are young children, our families are where we first experience love, care, and affection. Families instill core values in us from an early age, like honesty, kindness, respect for others, and a strong sense of right and wrong. Parents do this through their daily words and actions that children observe and learn from.

Family provides us with comfort and security. It's a place where we can be ourselves and receive all the love we need at the moment. Even being adults, we still rely on the kind words of family during difficult times.

Family also connects us to our cultural roots through traditions and wisdom passed down over generations.

Families establish the important moral foundation and emotional

security that children need to successfully navigate and pass life's challenges.

Having strong family bounds is vital for both children and adults. Family stays with us through our entire life, and it's one of the most important things that a person can have.

**Nikita KUDRYAVTSEV,**  
*Department of Geography,  
Geocology and Tourism*

What is the role of the family in today's world? I have a formed opinion on this subject, which I made on the basis of my family.

*Silencing Loneliness*

Family is the first line of defense against the exhausting loneliness that can be an aftereffect of modern life. In a world where individualism often takes precedence over community, families provide a sense of belonging and a feeling of support. My family, with its warmth and openness, has always been a constant source of comfort and companionship for me. I believe helping in small things, and as Chekhov said, "responsiveness" is a major component of good family relationships. This type of closeness not only mitigates feelings of isolation but also fosters a deep sense of belonging and identity.

*Supporting initiatives*

Supporting one another's initiatives is another crucial role of family in the modern world. Whether it's pursuing higher education, embarking on a career, or simply navigating life's challenges, families are there to provide encouragement, advice, and practical assistance. My family has supported me in everything. I would like to say that this is definitely a good thing, but there are some negative aspects. What happens when the testers of your game try not to talk about flaws so that the game designer doesn't get upset? That's right, in that case, no matter how hard the developers try, the game won't turn out perfect, because the team of game creators don't see their major missteps. It's the same case with the family.

*Psychological Assistance*

Family also plays a vital role in providing psychological assistance, offering a safe space for emotional expression. In a world that often

prioritizes efficiency and productivity, families provide a counterbalance by valuing emotional well-being. My family has been a source of joy during times of stress, offering understanding and listening ear. They have helped me navigate the complexities of life, providing perspective and advice that has helped me make sense of my experiences.

In my opinion, these three pillars are the foundation of relationships in any family.

**Vladislav SENYUSHKIN**  
*Computer Science Department*

In my opinion, family plays a very important role in society. It is in the family where we can receive support, understanding, and care. A strong and friendly family shapes our personality and gives us the mindset for a successful start and choosing the right position in life.

For me, family is the most important thing in life. I maintain excellent relationships with all family members. Since childhood my parents surrounded me with care and love, always helped and supported me in difficult situations, and helped me make the most important decisions. They instilled in me love for sports, music and science. As a child, my dad sent me to figure skating, to which I devoted 12 years of my life. Also, from the age of 5, I regularly listened to live music, which trained in me love for such a musical instrument as the piano.

My mother instilled in me love for chemistry. She herself works as a confectioner-technologist and every day delights adults and children with her unusual and delicious desserts. My parents are for me an ideal example of determination and love for their work. I try to spend time with my family as much as possible. Every day I call them on phone, they support me, motivate me to study well, do good deeds, and lift my spirits.

I believe that it is very important to achieve mutual understanding and respect between all family members. And for this we need to respect and take into account the interests of each of them.

In conclusion I'd like to say that in modern society the role of family is incomparable in its importance to



that of other social institutions. It is in the family that the foundations of a person's morality are laid, norms of behavior are formed, and the inner world and individual qualities of a person are revealed.

**Arina RYZHKOVA**  
*Chemistry Department*

Throughout the history of mankind, family played a huge role in the life of every person. When a child is born, the first person he encounters is his flesh and blood – his mother, who will provide his comfort and safety for the first months of his life. The family in which the little man appeared will teach him to walk, talk and interact with the outside world, with other people. Each family preserves and passes on its traditions from generation to generation, its members are strongly connected by blood ties or bonds of adoption. Most often, 2-3 generations of a family live under one roof until the youngest creates a new family.

This is how most people live. Despite the increasing pace of life, the falling birth rate and a large number of single young people who do not seek to marry, the role of the family remains the same: to educate, protect and love.

Every day someone is taken to kindergarten, someone is helped to do the homework, someone is told bedtime stories, and someone builds a hut made of pillows in the center of the room. Someone older is congratulated on their engagement, and someone even older is taking their grandchildren to visit for the weekend. On holidays, someone comes to visit mom and dad, sits down at a large table and eats grandma's signature dish. As children, we pass our problems on to our parents, and as we get older, we try to protect them from problems. Older brothers and sisters are our faithful friends who can be trusted with any secret, the younger ones are our first "adult duty", we protect and support them with all our might.

This is how we live our lives, this is how we become happy, this is the happiness we strive for, and this makes us human.

**Irina TIMOSHINA**  
*AMM Department*

