

*Finances, Politics, Lord Jesus* – a colloquium with Krzysztof Gedroyć, the author of the book *Piwonia odrodzona* (*Peony Reborn*) (Fundacja Sąsiedzi, Białystok 2018)

When Krzysztof Gedroyć's book *Piwonia, niemowa, głosy* (*Peony, the Dumb, Voices*) came out we were relishing at its stylistic mastery, the freshness of the Białystok slang, its satire of the cheap, however bestselling, crime books. It was 2013. Only a couple of years ago, one would think... Yet today we live in a different Poland already, and in a different Europe. Today we ask „What has become of us?”. We ask sociologists and psychologists, political analysts and prophets who read from the stars. Meanwhile, *Peony Reborn* finds itself in the bookshops. As attentive readers of the previous Gedroyć books, we should have predicted its coming. Yet we were deceiving ourselves that it shall come unnoticed, that it will fleet by, or that it shall be struck by a lightning. Nothing like it. Reality gets at us, in which people live as if „cracked in twain”; they do hang crosses on their walls, be they Russian or Polish, they do labour and strive all their lives, but “to the dick with it” and besides “tropical islands float away to the null”. So how is it? „Normal. Finances, politics, Lord Jesus”. We shall not escape into divagations of style and literary allusion. Not anymore. And we will find it hard falling asleep with the thought in mind of what kind of Poland of the future Krzysztof Gedroyć jots down in his current notes, placing his writer's ear so close to the local language and his heart so close to the naked truth of life.

Krzysztof Czyżewski