

NOTES ON MASTER AND MAN

NAMES

St. Nicholas: associated with: gifts, wayfarers, temperance, wonderworker

Brekhunov: from Russian *brekh* (bullshit, brekhun (bullshitter) Brekhunov (family of same), {Dictionary of Uncouth *nekulturny* Russian Expressions}

Nikita: from Greek Nikitos, “victor.”

RELIGIOUS IMAGES AND ALLUSIONS

Nikita has served earthly masters, but above all of them “the Chief Master who had sent him into this life”

Thirteen people at Last Supper in peasant hut.

Frozen clothes stretched out crucifixion form on line,

Brekhunov frozen in crucified position.

Everything in threes. Brekhunov sets off in third hour with three thousand rubles, three times they sent out, three times Nikita takes over, three times they see the same cluster of willows, three times they pass the frown washing, three times wormwood is mentioned.

Three encounters,: with Isai the horse thief, the three peasants whom they overtake, and Taras and his household in Grishkinbso. Petrushka speaks of three domestic councillors.

Three times Nikita gets out to search for a path, three times Brekhunov tries to light a cigaret, and after successfully lighting three matches, he is unable to light the last three.

Snow as unearthly dimension, mysterious space and time between life and death

Lying on top of Nikita, Brekhunov now forgets his own problems and thinks only of arming Nikita. He warms Nikita and Nikita warms him. Who will die and who will live, and what is the difference between life and death? Does it matter? Nikita thinks he has died and already gone to the next world, but then sadly realizes he is still in this world —ending seems part Buddhist part Christian