

AT THE THRESHOLD

On February 23rd, the description of this year's theme of Antyvir project began as follows:

“At the Threshold is a moment a few minutes before the change that will happen to the hero, a moment before (not) crossing the line. In a Hollywood movie, it would be depicted as a deep, loud, slow breath before the very start.

At the Threshold is the moment of final weighing of all “for” and “against”. It is followed by a step into the open door to meet something new, exciting and frightening. Or a step back to something safe and native, something that seems more important. It is often at the threshold that it becomes obvious what you need to give up. Instead, it is revealed to you whether what is ahead of you can be enough and surmountable. It may turn out that crossing this threshold now is impossible or not necessary.”

However, today (and every day) the highlights are shifting. Everything safe and native is under threat. Everything material has lost its sense, but at the same time has acquired a new symbolism. The terrible word “war” has become part of our daily use, our reality to which we are forced to get accustomed. Now everything fits into simple oppositions: “us” — “them”, “friend” — “enemy”. There are no halftones. **There is life “before” and “after”.**

Most organically, crossing of the threshold happens when there is an internal need: one system of values ceases to operate, so there is a need to construct a new system. **Today's reality is different.** It is shocking; it brings with itself the loss of home, the forced and sudden displacement from one environment to another, an instant insight, self-destruction, and the need to discover.

However, the threshold is not only about whoever is in front of it. The threshold expressively describes the other side; it represents whoever/whatever comes to this threshold. It is during the meeting of these two sides — at the threshold — that something big and important becomes apparent.

Adolescence as a threshold is not easier in the new environment. Such questions as: “How and where to go next?”, “How and with whom to look for a common ground?”, “What is home?”, and “Do I want to / Can I leave home, or go back to my childhood shelter?” do not disappear. However, now these questions worry almost everyone.