

About Philosophy, on Its Birthday

Doina Cernica, Journalist

TV Moldova 1 tells us “Good morning!” with a special guest for the International Day of Philosophy 2013, Ana Pascaru, lecturer, researcher, doctor habilitated in philosophy, the representative of the Philosophy Department of the Academy of Sciences in the Republic of Moldova. We stop the air heater (we are accommodated to “Chisinau”, the oldest hotel of the capital city in the Moldavian Republic, hotel which initially was an adjacent building of the Academy) in order to hear her better. She speaks about the history of the day, she talks about the importance of Philosophy in our lives and she announces the program of the “Philosophy and human perspective” Scientific Conference which is dedicated to her, with guests from the specialty department of the “Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava. This kind of welcome in front of the whole country is pleasant, we should hurry up, but I cannot help myself. In Romania, I am drinking coffee with Bessarabians at dawn, more exactly at 5:20 A.M., when on TVR2 is recast “The Messenger” from the night before. Here I preferred the tea. “Black, green, raspberry tea, what do you want?” And here it is, a new wave of heat in the coldness of the room: are congratulated, on the feast of Saints Michael and Gabriel, today, according to the Julian calendar, the persons bearing the names of these saints and, at the same time, angels. But, unexpectedly, the window shakes and opens, and the thoughts go towards Mihail-Radu Solcan, who would have reached 60 years now. For some people he was the professor at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Bucharest, for others, a friend... a special man. Assigned on the third Thursday in November, in accordance with the strategy in philosophy took up during the 169-session of UNESCO in 2002, the International Day of Philosophy always evokes Socrates, and now, in 2013, also the achievement of 2400 years from the founding of Plato’s Academy and, with it, of the first school of philosophy in the world. As regards the celebration of this day in the Republic of Moldova, this one, under the title already referred to, has a history of 11 years, as attested by the program of the current edition, organised by the philosophy department of the Academy of Science in the Republic of Moldova, in collaboration with the Association for philosophy in the Republic of Moldova and the University of the Academy of Sciences in the Moldavian Republic. Let us

retain Ana Pascaru's statement resumed in the opening discourse, according to which the manifestations that preceded the Conference at the Academy have granted a special attention to the centennial of Albert Camus' birth and to his "advice to remain in the field of the truth". Resumed on posters, flyers, and screens, the famous creation of Rafael, "The school of Athens", with its vintage meaning, also suggested by the era of the artist, but especially by the protagonists, has always collaborated with the students and the PhD students – a numerous, if not even dominant presence for the establishment and maintenance of an optimistic atmosphere, although the concerns on both facets of the life taken into account by the philosophical investigations, the findings of the research and in particular the fate of the philosophical education, are far from being meaningless. Another evocation of the great thinkers of the Antiquity belonged to the professor Sorin Tudor Maxim, from Suceava, who reminded the participants that in Suceava the philosophical education exists since the era of Stephen the Great, as is shown by the concerns at Putna monastery and by the faces of Plato and Aristotle on the fresco from Voronet Monastery. In his quality of senior of the guests coming from the right hand of the Prut river, he presented his colleagues, which, in turn, have introduced themselves during the meeting, with the titles of the communications included in the program: the Reader Professors Dan Ioan Dascalu ("Individualism and morality in the contemporary capitalism") and Bogdan Popoveniuc ("Objectivity between science and faith"), the Lecturer PhD Niadi-Corina Cernica ("Globalization and globality") and the Associate Professor Enrique Javier Nogueras Valdivieso, professor at the University of Granada ("Ausiàs March: Poetry and scholastics. The failure of powers of the soul"). As far as he is concerned, the Professor PhD Sorin Tudor Maxim, an expert in moral and political philosophy, approached the theme "Illusions of democracy. Premises and solutions for the control of power in a globalized world", wishing and desiring for the Conference, in the spirit of philosophy's parents, "the tackling of problems". Of course, I have not proposed a retelling of this scientific manifestation dedicated to the International Day of Philosophy in Chisinau, an ordinary and special day, at the same time, in the Republic of Moldova, but I would mention two salutes addressed to the participants. One of them was addressed to the director of the History Institute of the Academy, Gheorghe Cojocar, who has recently become the coordinator of the Department of Philosophy, continuing (maybe finishing, we hope) a migration "similar to the migratory races in history", that "we could believe the Philosophy has been confronted with a fatality of History", word dominated however by the conviction of the "mutual benefit, academic benefit".

The literary Youth

The other salutation, signed by Rodica Ciobanu, dean of the Faculty of Socio-human Sciences of the University of the Academy of Sciences in the Moldavian Republic, university designed, together with the high school of the Academy, as a seminary of the researchers in a variety of fields, remained in our memory by the confession that, as graduate of philosophy, she feels thankful, because “in a sense, the philosophy changed my way of thinking and, perhaps, of being”. Although initially structured on two modules – “The philosophy in the contemporary world”, moderated by Professor PhD Gheorghe Bobana, from the University of the Academy, and “The philosophy and the education”, Reader PhD Vitalie Ojovanu, from the “Nicolae Testimitanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy from the Republic of Moldova (representing a department with a remarkable activity in the Bioethics field) – the papers of the Conference belonged to a single “fabric”, which highlighted their interdependence and which allowed to the young people a better coverage of their problems. Young people which, as a matter of fact, have proved to be preoccupied with the fate of the Philosophy in the Republic of Moldova. In this respect, the PhD student Sergiu Luca underlied a real indictment, finding impressive similarities between the attitude of the Emperor Nero in relation to philosophers, who were expelled from Rome and from the Roman Empire, and the current elites of Moldova with respect to philosophy, the first being educated by the philosopher Seneca, and these ones (also) by prestigious philosophy teachers. The young man’s grievous inventory begun with the closing of the Faculty of Philosophy from the Republic of Moldova, in 2001, action which continued in the following years, with other eliminations, limitations and damaging changes. If Ana Pascaru remembered the persistent attempts to transform Philosophy in “a basic, non optional course”, requiring solidarity (“it also depends on how we support each other”) and hoping that “the hand of the Providence keep us together”, on the contrary, the intervention of the Reader PhD Ion Sârbu, from the Commercial Cooperative University from Moldova, also belonging to another generation, has been as severe as that of his younger confrere: “The Philosophy, the mother of sciences, should not be aggressed, as she is old, now, in the era of the specialisation, when we need so much its general coverage!” In the same direction, the Professor PhD and researcher Victor Juc, from the Institute for Legal and Politic Research of the Academy, pleaded for the concrete recognition of the opportunity of a history of international relations philosophy as object of study, the Professor PhD Eudochia Saharnean from the State University of the Republic of Moldova, expressed her belief that “the philosophical education could help to overcome the humanitarian crisis in the Republic of Moldova (e.g. the demographic crisis – the exodus, the increase of

crimes, of the domestic violence, of the crisis of values, of the crisis shaking the society from its foundations)”, reviewing the ministerial departments to which she made appeal for a philosophical education at an early age and the PhD student Sorin Scutelnic, from the University of the Academy, talked about the meaning of the therapy through philosophy, about “the need to create the monitoring powers in a cause-effect system, of a gestalt with such a destination, because from a distance, from a perspective, the parts of a mosaic are much easily understood”. Only apparently with a different point of view, in fact completing that of his colleague, Professor PhD Vasile Tapoc, from the same State University of the Republic of Moldova, argued, in the spirit of those belonging to the old generation, a knowledge of the self, but an active knowledge – “Do you want to change the world, but what about your own changes?!” – he realistically mentioned “If more than three persons come for the section of Philosophy, this is a success (Noica neither, he was not able to gather 22 candidates)!”, finishing with wisdom and optimism: “The philosophy should be captivating for those who did not get in here”. Conclusion that led us to the thought about the choices in full knowledge of the facts and to the feeling of suitability of the introduction since this school year in Romania of the philosophical education (in “competition” with the financial education) as an optional subject within the elementary school. And also to the awareness of the comfort generated by the defense of the Conference works in the Romanian language (with a single exception), one of the most beautiful languages of the European Union, at a time when, at scientific events, in Romania is more and more frequently preferred the English language, although the condition of host also supposes its dignity. At dusk, the news of the cessation of Ukraine’s steps towards the European Union monopolized the T.V. debates and many private discussions. Although worried to remain in some way “denuded” in front of Russia, our friends (and many of their friends and some of the friends of those ones, etc.) have confessed to be confident that “the circulation” will positively influence also the attitude towards Philosophy. We did not say anything. Because we wanted to be polite. And also because of our ignorance. The path towards the field of the truth is never simple, nor short.