

## A WORD ABOUT TEACHER

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A man is being formed by the environment, his / her surroundings and, naturally, not only by the things that surround you, but, in the first place, by the world of people who directly or indirectly shape our relations with the world. And it is well-deserved that the teachers are in the first place in this world of people: the ones who taught us to read and write and those ones who provided for us the first life lessons of honesty, decency, fortitude, self-possession, morality. Everyone in his life has a person to whom he can refer with a capital letter, this person is a Teacher.

### **Remember, Alyosha, the roads...\***

Gaining speed the Kharkov-Kyiv train departed from the railway station of Kharkov. I cannot already recollect what had caused our journey with Vladimir Vladimirovich Stashis. It so happened that we were in one compartment with our colleague, the Rector of one of the Kharkov humanities higher education institutions. At first we fell into shoptalk then about theatrical performances and books, about poets...

*Remember, Alyosha, the roads  
of Smolenshchina,  
Remember the rain and the mud  
and the pain,  
The women, exhausted, who brought milk  
in pitchers,*

*And clasped them like babies at breast,  
from the rain.*

Konstantin Simonov, the war veteran is the favorite poet of Vladimir Vladimirovich. He knows almost all of his poems by heart and also myriads of works of other authors. It happened later that I got to know the secret of his marvelous memory. Vladimir Vladimirovich seemed to have trained it purposely in possession of the art to remember the texts by whole blocks, by pages that was what caused his being wonderfully happy in recalling poems, the classical and contemporary ones.

It was then that a kind of poetical duel happened between us when the poems could be heard all the way and night from Kharkov to Kiev railways stations through.

*Alyosha, till now we've been spared by  
the bullets.  
But when (for the third time) my life seemed  
to end,  
I yet still felt proud of the dearest  
of countries,  
The great bitter land I was born to defend...*

Every time I hear these very lines I can't resist thinking of how tightly are they interconnected with the rich inner world of Vladimir Vladimirovich Stashis, my Teacher, colleague and friend the creative, scientific, business and

\* The translation of K. Simonov' verses was made by Mike Munford. More detail can be found at <http://www.simonov.co.uk/>

warm human relations with whom he lasted for more than half a century.

### Guards Division

It is a fabulous wealth to associate and work with for decades together. In fact Professor V. V. Stashis does have something you may learn from. His high responsibility as a citizen and patriot of his country, his purposefulness and firm stand in life connected with a constant desire to act, transform, create and build, and also his reverent attitude towards friends, fellow-students, war veterans towards many with whom he went through the war, worked in the academy and outside its walls were always impressive for me. Everyone who turned to Vladimir Vladimirovich always found understanding and support.

One can say that it was personal intercourse that has influenced me enormously: side by side we took of the academy all days through. In so doing his life and fate always presented an interest for me.

The course of life of Vladimir Vladimirovich has always been an example for me. The Great Patriotic War... he was only 17 to find himself in the lines. He was an infantryman. The young soldier's valor was noticed by his commanders and after the first battles he was elected the Komsomol organizer of the battalion. So to speak, it provided a privilege for him to rise first himself and by this rise soldiers to go into the assault.

He combated in the Kalinin, Northwestern and Baltic Fronts and was wounded thrice. His fellow soldiers had the honor to hoist the Banner of the Victory over the Reichstag. True, he had not an occasion to see this important event with his own eyes. During one of the battles he was seriously wounded (it was the third time already) and was bedridden for the next eight months to come. He still got one of the bullets in his spine not extracted. Despite the progn-

sis to be a fully disabled person Vladimir Vladimirovich recovered and learned to walk anew and began to adapt to a peaceful life. But for his tremendous will power he would not have been able to cope with his stiff fate.

He lived with Olga Aleksandrovna Priymenko, his spouse, for more than 60 years. Unfortunately, he passed away not so long ago. Olga Aleksandrovna was a highly professional jurist and many years of her life she devoted to the work in the procuracy bodies. They truly loved each other and together went through happiness, ills and hardships of this life. The warmth in their relations, care of children and grandchildren can be a good example for all who knew this family.

### Yaroslav Mudryi Law Academy of Ukraine

Traveling in mind over events of our joint work I try to select the most impressive episodes. For example, it is the reconstruction of the «red» building of our Institute.

Half a century ago this building required the overhaul to be made. It was impossible already to study there. There remained in the Institute only 12 lecture rooms. Incredibly not enough! Any space available was used to study. And all of us were concerned to open and use the rooms of this building in as much short term as possible.

There was a student construction cell organized and the rector assigned me to head it. My activities were supervised by Vladimir Vladimirovich Stashis. And, in my opinion, he possesses a certain gift of God for the construction is a rather complicated thing. Being a very responsible man, when got down to business (especially if it concerned his duties), Vladimir Vladimirovich devoted himself to that work fully, with a creative approach and the result was always scrupulous and qualitative.

Without being picky (in the good sense of the word), without the strife for touch the ground and without presence at the site one cannot manage the construction, moreover, his participation in the reconstruction of this building was essential. The reason for this was that our knowledge of the approaches and requirements to the organization of study was insufficient. And the reconstruction required the plans to be corrected, the dimensions of auditoriums, lecture halls, utility rooms to be defined. In the course of development it was allowed to bring changes to the planning, thus, we measured the rooms with the help of a tape measure and immediately introduced changes to the project. This part of construction work was rather democratic. And, of course, Vladimir Vladimirovich visited the construction site, made himself familiarized with the situation and took decisions. Owing to the support from the part of the administration we managed to complete the works on the reconstruction of the «red» building within a rather tight deadline set.

Since then our university has developed to the great extend with respect to its facilities: there have been developed a number of campus buildings, dormitories, apartment houses for the employees, and the educational system is being reformed. All achievements of the National Legal Academy are owing to the work, concerns and efforts of V. V. Stashis, the first pro-rector.

In the course of his life Vladimir Vladimirovich had a bunch of tempting offers to take up top positions in Kiev, Moscow, Volgograd and other cities, but he always, first and foremost, remained a patriot of his native Kharkov law institute which is now the academy. And he gave preference to his labor of love, the service to his university and its stuff.

By the way, the idea to build the monument to Yaroslav Mudriy (Wise) and name the Academy after him belongs to Vladimir Vladimirovich.

### Talent of the Scholar

When I entered the Kharkov Law Institute Vladimir Vladimirovich Stashis was the Head of the Criminal Law and Procedure Chair and he was elected as the Secretary of the Party organization of our course. At that time along with the work in the Institute Vladimir Vladimirovich often performed duties of a people's judge. And we, the then students, listened to his lectures with our mouths open. And these lectures were expertly and creatively supported by interesting examples taken from his investigative and court practice.

In the late 50s his deep gift of a pedagogue, scholar and head of department began to flourish. V. V. Stashis had chaired the department for 35 years. Due to his efforts a postgraduate course was renewed in the Institute, they began to admit postgraduates and the Department started to be replenished by young teachers. Many efforts were made to improve the art of teaching, unity of staff, creation of the atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect, insistence on high standards, adherence to one's principles and allegiance to the ideas of legal higher school, legal science and devotion for the Institute.

Vladimir Vladimirovich interested with the issues of the General and Special parts of criminal law. There were represented in Kharkov different scientific approaches but the Department was more attracted by the issues of the Special part: these were specific crimes, investigation of the signs of formal components of the ones, criminal measures to combat against them. It is very difficult to qualify of different acts of the accused and defendant. The life has many sides

and a person's behavior has many nuances. There are, so to speak, many borderline situations. The task of criminal law science (particularly on the grounds of scientific analysis of the different crimes' formal components) is to provide recommendations either in the field of law enforcement or in the sphere of improvement of the legislation in effect.

Vladimir Vladimirovich has played a key role in my admittance to the post-graduate course. We grown colleagues, the distance which usually exists between a student and professor shortened. It was then that I got to know the whole depth of his knowledge, breadth of erudition, high scientific demands and adherence to his principles.

V. V. Stashis participated in the development of the 1960 Criminal Code of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and then the 2001 Criminal Code of Ukraine. Among his works are 230 scientific writings, including 7 monographs, 8 scientific practical commentaries on the Criminal Code, 14 textbooks and 8 educational guidance manuals on the burning issues of the criminal law.

Many of these works became bibles not only for young scientists and students but also for practicing lawyers. In fact, his efforts facilitated the foundation of the scientific school of the National Legal Academy of Ukraine on the preparation of experts in the field of criminal law which is known both in our country and abroad. It is suffice to say that just only for the time of Vladimir Vladimirovich's chairing and his active participation and assistance the Criminal Law Department has prepared more than 50 candidates of legal sciences and 8 doctors of law and at a later date there have been prepared 28 candidate's dissertations, 7 of his students gained their doctor of law degree under his direct academic advising.

I cannot remember any case of any serious remarks or, good Lord preserve us! discharge of the decisions on the defense of dissertations under his academic advising. In the meantime it is quite a natural thing when the higher scientific institutions consider that this or that work has not achieved a proper level or the scientific discussion in the learned community requires the findings of the dissertation to be revised. The distinctive characteristics of all the dissertations which his students deal with are deep scientific analysis, novelty of formulated proposals and conclusions, essential practical bend of the recommendations pronounced. And the peculiarity of his scientific stand is just the research of the new and unexplored issues. This is a joint creative process of the academic adviser and postgraduate. If to one of the approaches belong three defended dissertations on the terrains of the former Soviet Union his attitude towards this theme is alerted. Together with his students Vladimir Vladimirovich is not afraid to pioneer in the science and that is why one can be sure that: all things you have got to know about, researched, the conclusions that have been made belong to you, and they are new. And that is where lies one more secret of his and the graduates of his school of thought.

Despite him being a strict and demanding teacher, his intolerance with respect to lack of discipline, slackitude, at the same time he is a very considerate, generous man, always ready to come to rescue should his neighbor face misfortune.

His ability to overcome difficulties, establish and develop the relations with different people, provide proper recommendations especially in the event of conflicts, and many other qualities of his personality have gained the deserved

authority, respect and devotion of the teachers, co-workers, students and graduates of the Academy, colleagues from the other educational institutions, workers from the law enforcement bodies and government bodies being a wonderful example for all people and, first of all, for upbringing the young.

It would have taken more than one life to gain all titles and awards Vladimir Vladimirovich has. He received the highest awards both of the USSR and Ukraine. At the same time he provides

for his students as much academic freedom as possible. Neither of his students ever feel his pressure even in those cases when our opinions differ. He is convinced that the discussions are the engines of science; I cannot remember any case, when his postgraduate, that I could not have proven (I have no inclination to refer to correctness for no man is wise at all times) my right to put down my own stand. This is an amazing gift to be a teacher. I am happy to have such a Teacher.