



A talk to a spirit...

RAFIG ALIYEV

***A TALK TO
A SPIRIT***



BAKU - 2009



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**Typing and
computer design:**

N. Aliyeva

Responsible persons:

A. Aliyeva

RAFIG YAHYA OGHLU ALIYEV

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*The book is dedicated to **TOFIG GASIM OGHLU KOCHARLY**,
academician, a wonderful man, talented historian. The thoughts are
transmitted in a form of a dialogue with him. The author has chosen
this style exclusively as a sign of deep respect to his blessed memory.
Such an approach seems to give readers an opportunity to feel his
presence best of all.*

11 Vagif Ave. AZ1007, Baku, Azerbaijan

Tel./fax: (994 12) 441 01 32/33/34

E-mail: alivevrafig@gmail.com

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TO THE READER

Dear readers!

Everything you will read in this small book reflects the reality that separates us from those who have completed their mission on the earth and left for the afterlife. Some thoughts are purely personal. Understanding the unity of two worlds, I failed to keep back anything from you. I think everyone has ever had such thoughts. That's why I have decided to share my feelings and hoped you would be impartial in assessing my attempt.

Every event or occasion has the beginning, initial cause. In this case, the cause of writing my recollections is repeated requests of Irada khanum, Tofig muallim's daughter, and of Nu-shaba khanum, his niece and my wife.

My desire to please people who are dear to me and to Tofig muallim¹ was so great that I have surpassed myself without expecting that. I

¹ A form of polite address to an elderly person



mean “overfulfillment” of undertaken commitments. Perhaps, the habit of recent socialistic past to do something else besides what is planned played its positive role. Thus, along with my recollections, a lot of episodes of my own life have come to light. That’s why a short excursus to the past has yielded to something more. I do not dare to define the genre of the presented book; it is like an autobiographical story novel, an essay.

I agree to the opinion that the talent of a person you are going to write about has a positive impact on you and his thoughts and actions become somehow yours for a while. Perhaps that makes you courageous to assume the responsibility and to make public the episodes of your own life. That is how I picture the realities for me, my relatives and the reader.

No matter how it is, recollections plus a story novel are in your hands. Do not be strict judges. This is just my conversation to a wise man. Wisdom is a God-given gift. Few people have it. To touch that wisdom, therefore, is in



itself a great event in the life of an ordinary man. Such honour has fallen on me as well. The story novel you are taking in your hands is a part of the meeting with wisdom, with a wonderful man whose life is an obvious case worthy of imitation. Like any precious heritage, it is a practical manual.

It is said that good people keep the world turning. Our earthly being is considered to be more interesting at the expense of their deeds and actions. They help many generations to fight for the best place in the world community. I think the hero of my story is one of them. They can be cited as an example for defining the criteria of moral and ethic values of our days and bringing closer the historical past in search of those who managed to keep the rich heritage of our ancestors as the most valuable constituent of the essence of our nation.

Rafiq Aliyev



20.12.2008

00.00

INSTEAD OF FOREWORD

I have not been able to make myself to state on paper my reminiscences about Tofiq Kocharly for a long time. I did not accept what had happened and refused to believe in his physical absence. Talks about him in the past tense oppressed my mind and heart. However, I recollected my strength and ability and succeeded in satisfying myself that he is absent physically, while his soul is among us. We feel his presence every time. This is, perhaps, a qualitatively new feeling.

Recollections are a purely personal notion, I would say, rather intimate to share it with someone. It is our wealth, a reserve that helps to compensate spent energy. It won't do to scatter this wealth. Therefore, I came to a decision to discuss such a delicate subject first with To-



fig Kocharly himself. By his consent, I am making public the contents of our conversation with great pleasure.





A DEFERENTIAL MONOLOGUE...

Tofiq muallim, as the leader of a large family, you shared your love, joy, knowledge and experience with everyone who had a need of that. You felt better because of that. You were a carrier of good information, deep knowledge, from the time of Herodotos to our days. Before I met you and knew you, I could not believe that, because I was not able to imagine that one person could be well-informed about different spheres. Today, I can say with certainty that the most capacious computer is unable to keep in its memory a part of information of your brains. They say God gives a talent as well as a soul. But He is so generous that He deprives a man of none of them. He leaves talent to next generations and releases the soul from serving a sick, getting old body saving and protecting the very soul. You are not among us for about a year. But we are still delighted with your talent; we



still bow down before your soul and remember details of talks to you.

Everybody says that Tofig Kocharly was the very man whom you could ask a piece of advice; he was a man of wisdom whose conversations relieved souls. Your kind aura satiated the souls and mind with oxygen. You had a unique ability to imperceptibly imbue one's human essence. Once a person met you and talked to you for five minutes, he/she could not stand continuing the conversation. You loved, respected and appreciated talented people, and you hated treachery, hypocrisy and insincerity.

Do not worry, nobody is overhearing us, but all the relatives will know what we have talked to you very soon.

Perhaps, you are thinking why I did not tell you all this when you were here. I wanted to, but I could not. We failed to talk privately. To tell the truth, I do not know whether you have ever had talks to any of our relatives before me now, or have given them advices,



shared your new impressions and heavenly problems. Yes, I do not forget that you used to share your knowledge as well as daily bread, except your problems that you solved alone and successfully as I know. Only people of strong will, of flexible mind and of righteous assessment of peripetias of life can live and create in this way. You would understand that any problem could disturb someone and make him taking a difficult decision, that's why you would not make problems then, let alone nowadays. You have no problems now as I understand. You left them here, on the earth, and it is for us to decide them, fortunately, by basing upon your kind heritage, pure name and blessed memory. Thanks to you, now we can find the answers to many questions of our being.

You know, relations between our family members are still the same, if not worse. We see each other rarely, sometimes we gossip. You would not like that. Unfortunately, sometimes people understand



stand the senseless of such relations too late: everyone has his/her own foibles. As to you, you were a man of unique gift to turn someone's foible to valour, by your own example and just attitude towards everyone who was near.

You know, earthly passions have led me astray. On the other hand, who is better but you whom I can talk to? Few people can understand others' feelings and emotions. Everyone is hidden in his/her own home as in an impregnable ivory tower. Of course, you can see everything better from above. However, nobody has ever managed to change this human vice, so you do not try either. Who knows, that is likely to be better. Let everything go their way, since everything that is happening on the earth is a drop in immense ocean of eternity where you are now. In the end of his/her life everybody will wish to take such a pure drop so that not to do harm to the ocean. It is positive.

Well, I think it is enough about family affairs. It is not good to load you with my problems. We will



make head of them somehow, you just do not worry. Let's talk a little about our relations.

As to me, you would say that you liked my actions, adherence to principles. We have kindred spirits. You confirmed that by having visited me. Otherwise, it was hard to write about you without consulting with you. You would not like anyone to try to interfere in your business, worm oneself into your confidence. It is an illusion, a fantasy to anticipate what you took with you beforehand. Perhaps, it is more comfortable. The soul is not a caravanserai. It is designed for eternal stay in the heaven. That's why you were right when you did not allow anyone to interfere in your own affairs, including those of heart.

If I had a chance I preferred listening to you. Indeed, your speech was so good, marvelous that everything and everyone around used to calm down not to deprive himself/herself of a bit of your generosity. Words were your weapon, and that invaluable heritage you left for us



for us and for generations to come. Though, it's all the same for you now. You are looking down from above; you are higher than we, all earthly passions, grief and human vices.

You think I have praised you too much and you do not like that. You did like praising others, glorifying each of us so candidly (that was typical of you) that, thank to this, we used to learn something new about ourselves. It is rather easier to write than to say. That's why I am so lavish with praises. I would like to pay a piece of honours, because one good turn deserves another. I believe you will understand me. You could tell the good from the evil, the truth from the lie, the joy from the bitterness. That's why it is easy to write about you. Words are coming themselves, and I'd like to be able to imprint them on the paper.

After reading my confession, our relatives will probably think that something has happened to me. For me now, your opinion is principal as a rule. You know I always say and



write the truth, i.e. what I think. You feel good there. You are not burdened with earthly problems, physical pain and you are not sorry for us. There you are closer to God. I think God, the Creator, was in good mood when He was creating you as He created you a worthy man. Billions of angels and, perhaps, His beloved goddesses of heavenly beauty were surrounding Him then. He wanted to demonstrate them His ability of creating a masterpiece. I suppose He managed to do that and the goddesses (you never disregarded the fair sex) were pleased.

There is no one compatible to you now, except great commanders Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Suvorov, Javad-khan, Fataly-khan who led their soldiers, went through fire and won with the strength of weapon and spirit. Unlike them, you would win your rivals with peaceful means, i.e. the strength of your own mind, logic, knowledge and ability to win with words.



**FAMILY IS PRIVATE,
AND NOT ONLY**

**“Love, bear women and
forgive them their pranks!”**

These are your words. Otherwise, life on the earth loses its meaning. You enjoyed the ability of loving, bearing and forgiving your nearest and dearest. Only dissipating one's energy a man can become morally rich and strong. You taught us that by personal example, without thrusting your opinion on us. We took you as you were as it went without saying.

Naturally, Laya khanum grieves most of all. She is your earthly queen, faithful friend of your earthly being who you spent your life with and said goodbye to with inherit to you love, attention and tenderness. This is an act of a worthy man who was able to love, bear and forgive and who managed to leave this world as a real gentleman. We talked to you last sev-



eral days before your departure. You were cheerful and bright and, strange as it may seem, very verbose. We talked for more than a half an hour and you made an impression of a man who was to live among us for a long time. That happened: you left in order to stay with us while we are alive.

You taught us to be who we are, to be sincere in our relations, to help each other as far as possible. Do you remember the day when I came to your working place? We had a conversation and you repeated several times, as an invocation, one phrase “Everyone should do what he/she can do best!”

You never acted against your conscience. As a true jeweller, you could shape and adorn your relation towards us, though “carats” were various. Nevertheless, everybody should get what he/she deserves. This was, as I think, your credo, a corner-stone of your character, your “ego”. You were always faithful to yourself. Only great people are destined to be in the



harmony of soul and mind. *You are smiling. This is not my invention; it was seen on your fascinating face, felt in your mild mellow voice, in your noisy as Baku wind laughter and in winning smile. It was impossible not to notice that, therefore, everyone longed for you most of all. Everyone wanted to get a piece of your buoyancy. I understand that life is full of challenges but they always yielded to your fortitude, a desire to get joy and to share it with others.*





FOREFATHERS' HERITAGE

**We generate an idea,
and it lives in us.**

You would write about history not only as an aim of unbiased information about the past; that was your inner necessity. You would give all you had got in the name of that task. There was nothing incomplete in your character. Integrity in everything, in relations with people, family, work, and, of course, with the science of history - that was your motto. Basing upon unquestionable facts, you succeeded in reproducing a part of our national history which is easy to understand and true. Your scholarly works are of concrete address nature. The geography of your studies covered whole Azerbaijan, from Derbend to Hamadan, from Nakhchivan to Baku. You would not only expound history, you lived in it, with all its characters experienc-



ing the same historical events, both joyful and sad ones.

When reading your works, one can see the level of your deep knowledge of history and your joy, as a patriot of your country, about every single, even insignificant, achievement of our ancestors as well as your sadness about their failures. Your books about Garabagh are not only history, but also a chronology of events with statements and analysis of the reasons of their beginning and consequences. You let them pass through your wit and soul. Most people whom I happened to exchange opinions with believe that among the best works on Garabagh, its history and the present are your books as well, especially the latest publications. I am sure that each of us is ready to do his/her best to settle the Garabagh conflict within the framework of justice and understanding the sufferings and grief of compatriots who have been forced to leave their homes. To all appearances, mixed feelings overwhelm us: love to



Motherland and primordial Azerbaijan lands, boundless tolerance and peaceableness, ability to forget offences and a huge desire to return to those wonderful places where our forefathers lived and created. I am always thinking about that. The idea of making clear, for me at least, what the components of our character, identity or, as it is popular to say nowadays, mentality, are has never left me.

Under the influence of that and what I heard from you repeatedly, I dared to express my opinion about patriotism and nationalism. You were a patriot both of your country and family. Nationalism was alien to you as I know. Therefore, I would like to tell you what I think about this serious problem. *You can ask questions as we are talking. I will understand them by your face expressions.*

In the last two decades, the Azerbaijani nation has been subjected to severe tests. We have gained independence despite Armenia's occupation of 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territories.



With regard to the occupation of Upper (Nagorno) Garabagh and seven adjacent regions, in addition to external factors, including military aid by post-Soviet army elements, there was one more factor of no small importance in the history of our relations with Armenians. They saw in us a part of the Turks whom Armenians feel pathological hatred towards. From early childhood, they teach their children this hatred and they absorb it with breast milk. This powerful emotional and psychological burden is passed from generation to generation and it has been manifested in different ways throughout two centuries. Our nation also became an object of this policy – the unbridled fantasy of “the fathers of Armenia”. The result has always been obvious, the years of 1905 and 1918, the ousting of Azerbaijanis from their native lands, the Khojaly genocide committed before the very eyes of the international community, etc.

Is it possible to ignore national chauvinism of the majority of Armenians or, as they con-



sider, is all this an impudent manifestation of patriotism? They try, and perhaps, sometimes, they have succeeded in convincing the world community quiet conversely of their claims, pretending to be victims of centuries-old policy of “genocide” by Turkey and Azerbaijan. This being said, reasonable questions arise as to how we should meet these challenges. Can we arm also with the very nationalism and teach our children hatred against our neighbor, a bad neighbor-killer? Where do the roots stem of our absolute forgiveness, lack of justified hate towards those who kill our fellow countrymen, plunder their homes, and take away women and children as prisoners for further annihilation through unseen torture?

We repeatedly spoke that in itself, patriotism is an internal state of human beings and, it seems to me, it is initially inherent to them even on subconscious and genetic levels. It can exist without being fostered by other patriots, and this is an individual and all-sufficient phenomenon. Patri-



otism is not directed against anyone in particular. This feeling is the value of an entire nation, its defense in the shape of a covering. Overall, our fellow countrymen's patriotism poses a barrier for national chauvinism as well as the negative emotions and outbursts which are not borne by it. *The main distinguishing feature of patriotism is a lack of an enemy image*; it fosters a desire to be good to those who are alike. United patriots do good for their nation and state together with all people of other nations, without exulting themselves, because they lack in-born hate.

As to nationalism, it is a political phenomenon rather than spiritual. Nationalism has an enemy image as a necessary condition for existence. It has general goals and objectives for the achievement and solution of which it combats and wages war for the elimination or subordination of others. With this in mind, it is impossible to confuse these two notions – “patriotism” and “nationalism”: they have quite a dif-



ferent nature and specifics. Each nationalist can become not only a patriot but also a militant, and not an all-sufficient, potential chauvinist. A patriot should not be a nationalist in order to keep his spiritual state but maintain important bonds with Motherland, its development, prosperity and defense. What Armenia ventures towards Osmons and Azeris is nothing other than “patriots’ games”, i.e. a pure double-dyed national chauvinism in its worst manifestations. History has known a lot of “public merry-makings” of the kind. As to the Armenian side namely, an Armenian triad “church – party – diaspora” is an organizer, inspirer and leader of such games.

At times it is difficult for a person of narrow interests to draw a distinction between the two phenomena. It is known that “leaders” need these sentiments as an acceptable ideology allowing to lead masses. If power is concentrated in reliable hands, patriotism is brought to the forefront, but otherwise, nationalism be-



comes a formidable weapon underlying an appropriate ideological structure. With the help of this argument, the authorities can easily get rid of patriots (as it was under Stalin and other dictators), especially active patriots aspiring not to allow wild outbursts of national chauvinism, which is a pernicious phenomenon for the community and state as a whole.

The consolidation of nationalists quite often results in the creation of an organization which is condescending of other nationals and begins striving to restrict their rights or simply annihilate them. The distance between nationalism and chauvinism and fascism is not great, as very delicate and “sensitive” barriers separate these notions. This kind of nationalism brings to its nation not prosperity and hardship, troubles and war. A hungry beast is awakening in it, which needs a victim in order to display its power. That’s why it is necessary to distinguish these two notions that appear to be close to each other. The first one, i.e. patriotism, is



something natural and comprehensible for the majority, while the second one, i.e. nationalism, more exactly, national chauvinism, is detrimental for a nation and causes trouble to others. Underlying the national chauvinism is not love and understanding but hate and lack of acceptance, as well as misanthropy and social cannibalism. As history shows, a nation exalted by national chauvinism is doomed to fall from the same height and broken into a multitude of parts. Only a new kind of true patriotism, arisen at the heart of such a nation can actually save it. The history provides no other versions.

*Tofiq muallim, you are listening to me so attentively that I would like to speak out. Now, you may ask a question whether I have understood you correctly. Thank you, it is a very important question. What do you think about citizens' attitude towards these notions in our country? What prevails here – **patriotism** or **nationalism**?*

It is our very patriotism that fully fits the above-mentioned definition. We are likely not



to have nationalism inclinations in our genes in its negative sense. Even the 20-year-long non-healing Garabagh wound has failed to arouse an enemy image for us. This is a paradox but fact. We are living this time, while witnessing all the unfolding developments of this period in history. Whether it is good or bad is difficult to judge. Facts are stubborn things. All occurs before our eyes and it is impossible to falsify anything. A human being cannot bear in himself two fundamental origins – virtue and evil – at the same time. These notions are diametrically opposite and their essence cannot be even counter-opposed.

Do you have one more question? I seem to be taking an exam. Well, let it be as you like. Are we patriots or nationalists? It is possible to answer unambiguously to this question, which pertains to our essence as a nation. ***We are not infected with the nationalism virus.*** It is difficult to say who and when inoculated our ancestry against this virus. Sometimes you terribly want to be



nationalist but I am sure not everyone who wishes for it can succeed in this. At best, we can expect some outbursts failing to turn to smolder. The nationalism of an Azerbaijani can be at best pan-Turkism which is not the same. The span is extending, and our nationalist is usually lost amidst common masses and he cannot be of any use.

Growing a tree of nationalism is not matter of one century. Our ancestry seemed not to have been aware of such a seed – they enjoyed the fruits of another tree which could not provoke hate against other nations, even those who have been causing harm to our people for centuries. I mean those who aimed to annihilate us as nation. I mean the Armenian triad, “church – party – diaspora” that is constantly and purposefully inclining the Armenian ethnos against us. We do not have and there will not be a similar “triumvirate” as the roots of our tree of virtue are strong enough, and have unfortunately been the cause of many of our suf-



ferings. Certainly a human being can suffer from good no less than from evil.

This is the reality of our days; this is our historical heritage which has been bestowed upon us, a course set by our ancestors. As for what motivated their behavior, only God knows that, and we have to simply deal with the consequences of their deeds. Personally, I think quite a few of our compatriots would give up this kind of heritage for a certain time. But is it enough? I am afraid not. Those born to fly cannot creep – and this is the wisdom of all times.

The question you asked touches upon the interests of all Azerbaijanians. I have expressed my take on this, and there are probably other views, including yours.

You have learned my opinion about subjects that disturb you. I have not kept back anything from you. *You said a scholar, as any other man of intellect, should be integral, should see, feel, analyze, compare and only after that he is able to*



create full-scale vision of historic truth. He must be able to produce a wide panorama and not to limit himself within details.





WAR TRAGEDIES... LEADERS' MISTAKES

**Politicians start wars -
the power of word gives place
to the power of weapons**

The range of your scientific interest was not restricted within the perimeters of Azerbaijan. You thought we are a part of the whole, i.e. of the world community, and any shortcoming in any part of the whole organism is echoed in other parts, even in the smallest ones. Such is the structure of society and the human being. *You seem to be still interested in what is happening in the world. I understand you, a man of attitude as you are needs to know the problems of mankind.* Unfortunately, there is nothing to be glad about. In a word, the world has got mad. Do not be astonished, this is nearly so. Leaders of some great powers have lost their sense. They have exposed to endanger not only their own nations



but also all the people of the planet. Whole societies are in danger. Madness has seized masses. You know best of all what mass mental disease, mass schizophrenia is. In this state people lose their moral and ethic values. Cynicism is the only component of their practical conduct, i.e. to kill, to plunder, to annihilate, to seize, to oust, to grow rich, and to get power. They become brutalized before your eyes. Though it is mild a word for that. I will give an example. Israil has waged war against Gaza Strip, a constituent part of Palestine, before the eyes of educated people in Europe, USA, Russia and unhappy Muslim world. Defenders of the enclave are armed with guns and home-made Qassam missiles, while Israil uses modern planes, tanks, armoured troop-carriers. Hundreds of Palestine children, women, old men and tens of Hamas soldiers are killed and wounded. I am absolutely sure that culture of Europe and other countries is true falsification, a bad mask that hides violent people behind it.



They are participators of atrocities inflicted in Palestine.

As a result, the international law and world community, the UN, are gradually losing their meaning. It is terrible but a fact. *You would probably say that history has known far more terrifying scenes.* Well, I agree, but the scale of today's mass barbarism is too large to be compared to that of times of great empires, such as the Roman Empire, the Mongolian, the Byzantine, the Persian, the French, the Austrian-Hungarian, the German and others. The level of development then was quite different. Perhaps, every period of history has its specificities, idols, talented people to which amounted generations of those times. Nowadays we live in the so-called "open society".

This notion was suggested by George Soros, an outstanding American multimillionaire, who is exaggerating the idea of "open society". However, no one can explain clearly why our eastern society must be open, while their west-



ern society must be half-open. Nonetheless, I am just expressing my opinion; we will make clear the matter with Soros some other day. He seems to have overreached himself.

At times of great empires, emperors, kings and lords ruled the world. Then people had no right to choose a monarch. They had the only right to love him and pray for him. Approximately all people were glad – both slaves and slave-holders, serfs and feudal lords, subjects and nobility. Though, there were unruly people, too who were dealt with quickly. There were treachery, betrayal, fratricide for getting power over people. As a conclusion of my thought I would like to refer to Somerset Maugham, an outstanding British writer of the XX century, who said about great personalities of the past: “Who is concerned today that Alexander the Great was cruel and ungrateful? Who remembers Julius Caesar’s perfidy? In this world one can seize and hold power, and then



the means used to get it will be considered just and the winners will be made a fuss over”.

Those times are gone, though people have inherited something. Nowadays, for want of better mechanism and method of ruling, the world has chosen a quite different way of creating a government, defining power forms. Even people in Africa know that it is democracy. It presupposes an endless dialogue, an opportunity to speak out and, of course, the right to vote for the most important attributes of power, including participation in referendums. Today, it is a very popular and amusing business the West practicing on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. For all that the result must be predictable and permanent. If it is failure for the first time, everything will be all right for the second, and even third, time. This has been practiced in Northern Ireland recently. The population voted against the Helsinki agreement. Several months later European parliamentarians “advised” the Irish authorities “to check people’s



credibility once more". They checked and everything turned out to be all right. Ireland adopted the agreement. There are a lot of examples of European democrats' life. However, we do not need that; let them sort their affairs out themselves and not trouble others. Nowadays, the methods of making known people's opinion have crossed the West borders. The East is gradually and agonizingly contriving itself to the so-called western standards in everything, especially in holding local referendums. There has been held general voting on amendments to the General Law in our country recently. The problem was discussed widely in many circles for over three months. However, it is not clear why our people pass Europe that is too close to us by spirit and compare the visible and invisible to the USA standards. For example, a sacramental question arouses, Why our Constitution is not like the American one? People are doing their best to cheat others backing on their ignorance of politics and law. How-



ever, every action or inaction has limits, reasons and arguments. It is not for us to judge. *I'd better introduce you, Tofig muallim, my vision of this important problem that is directly related to the level of development of open, civil, secular, legal and democratic society. You see what a long name it has. The last two definitions would be enough, legal and democratic, though the law is a fruit of democracy, so the last word includes everything.*





A REFERENDUM IS THE VOICE OF THE ESTABLISHED NATION...

From time immemorial there have been existed different forms of surveys, polls that help learning people's opinion about very actual and important questions and aspects of life and activities of the state as a structure of democracy. This form of society existence was accepted in Rome as far back as the IV century B.C.. Medieval traditions with some changes and additions exist in our days as well.

Similar forms of people poll were applied and are still applied nowadays. In some regions of Northern Caucasus and state forming structures in Africa there have been held the so-called "gatherings" at which delegated representatives of local population gather and discuss jointly fateful problems in life of people and the country. All that is a traditional oral and open voting. Resolutions made at such



gatherings are not subject to an appeal and review, and no one is empowered to change their essence.

In countries where the state system is based on democratic institutions, crucial problems are solved by means of general voting, i.e. a referendum. The word "referendum" is translated from Latin as "something that must be reported".

Thus, a referendum is an important way of solving cardinal problems related to the state system, especially the Constitution, as a basic law. All other laws, legal texts and activities of state structures originate from the regulations of the Constitution as the General Law of supreme force. Therefore, in a state with a constitution, there is the Constitutional Court, a supreme body of legality control, resolutions of which are final and obligatory for the state and citizens to implement.

I think, as a result of the referendum, timely and necessary amendments have been made



made to the Constitution of our country. This is a topic for discussion both in newspapers and on TV. Strange as it may seem, the supporters as well as opponents of the amendments often cite the Constitution of the USA adopted in 1787 as an example of “constitutional long-liver”. They note that the essence of the American constitution has not changed for over 200 years of its existence; only 26 amendments were made to it during the period from 1791 to 1971. *Frankly speaking, Tofiq muallim, you know that it is not even a constitution in our nowadays’ understanding.* It reflects regulations that determine the President’s authorities, responsibilities of heads of state structures, the procedure of Senate and Representatives election, their rights and responsibilities; it also contains the Bill of Rights. There is a great difference between the US Constitution and constitutions of other countries, including ours. In one case, a constitution like the American one legalizes power authorities and restrictions, in the other case,



there are established regulations that determine and guarantee citizens' rights and freedoms, activities of state and society as a whole. Except several articles, the US Constitution rather resembles a conception of authority separation of supreme layers of the power. It can be said that people are absent in its first variant, i.e. without amendments. To all appearances, in the end of the XVIII century, the notion 'people' was not included in the lexicon of founders of the USA and authors of the American constitution.

Strange as it is, the initial US Constitution, i.e. till 1791, without 10 amendments known as the Bill of Rights, did not guarantee citizens' rights and liberties. It only showed which human rights must be restricted, as all people since the very birth were considered to have all rights, and some of them can be applied after a centralised feudal state is established. That's why, by consent of free state representatives of those times, there appeared an idea to regulate their interrelations to define authority limits.



The US Constitution of 7 articles was signed by G. Washington, US President and deputy from Virginia, and deputies from 12 states on September 17, 1787.

With the development of the state, further forming of social relations, the US Constitution failed to provide a qualitative solution of many problems, such as states interrelations, authorities of different structures of federal and local levels of power, freedoms of speech, religion, racial problems. Therefore, 26 amendments were made to the Constitution during 1791 to 1971; they reflect the principal problems of life and activities of the American society. They are actually equal to the main text of the Constitution by volume, but excel all 7 articles in significance. Regulations enshrined in amendments are tens times exceed their number in the General Law. Thus, it is incorrect to compare our acting constitution to that of America, as this demonstrates that dialogue participants have



lack of minimal knowledge about the US Constitution.

Besides, the level of “democracy” of the US Constitution has vividly revealed itself in recent five years (2005-2009). 70-75 per cent of Americans did not approve the policy of G.Bush Junior who repeatedly violated the international law, ignored the UN, waged bloody war in Iraq, and is to blame for death of thousands of Americans and tens of thousands of Iraqi people. He violated US laws, kept people in torture-chambers in Guantanamo, Abu Graib and secret detention places in Europe for more than three years without charges. The US vaunted democracy, in fact, let the US President scoff at his people and the world community.

Impeachment procedures provided by democratic laws do not in fact work. Everybody has to bear and wait for the end of the awful (i.e. the term of presidency) and for the beginning of correcting mistakes. The US Constitution does not provide other legal alternatives.



Actually, people's opinion is not taken into consideration.

Not a referendum has been held in the USA for 230 years. However, ordinary Americans are not to blame for their constitution that is thought to be a model. Do those who so often appeal to the Constitutions of the USA and other supposedly democratic countries not see that?

Any constitution is a reflection of social reality and prognosis for a long time beforehand.

I am not against those who criticize suggested amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I am just for a correct and unbiased process by proving criticism with real facts, knowing the essence and difference between compared constitutions of other countries, just not citing them as an example. Constitutions of other democracies have weak points and need changes and addenda. Citing the authors of other constitutions as an example for



our lawyers offends our dignity, and me personally, as a citizen and a knower of the authors of the amendments to the acting Constitution of our country. I think that among those who shape the suggested amendments constitutionally are first-rate experts who do not yield in this respect to lawyers of Europe and the USA. Taking into consideration the fact that they are best of all familiar with the social, political and economic situation in our country, it is not difficult to conclude that they excel their foreign counterparts. I suppose our political opposition should not limit its activities to conniving at realities in Azerbaijan, to criticizing and neglecting everything that empowered people suggest them. Justice and deep knowledge should be above everything!

To solve such serious problems one should be of great intellect (if there is any) and have wise head. Then dialogues and comparisons will be profitable, not irritating TV audience at TV channels who, due to misunderstanding the



polemics of four or more people, remain tête-a-tête with their misunderstanding. Only confidence in one of the parts lets keep calm and believe in the best.

P.S. Here are all seven articles of the US Constitution of 1787:

Article One. The Legislative Branch.

Article Two. The Executive Branch.

Article Three. The Judicial Branch.

Article Four. The States' powers and limits.

Article Five. The Amendment.

Article Six. Debts, Supremacy, Oaths.

Article Seven. Ratification.

Signed on September 17, 1787 by G. Washington, US President and deputy from Virginia, and 38 deputies.

As to TV hot debates on making amendments to the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic, I will tell you about them in short. It is amusing, but a fact is a fact, and one must take it into consideration.





A DISPUTE DIALOGUE

I would like to tell you about the activities of “vanguards” of debaters. I call them so for fun. You know, in Ancient Rome, before the Senate appeared, there were people publicly debating for winnings. They were called debaters. Thinking this way makes easy the acceptance of truth. Thus, most people suppose that they carry on a “civilized” dialogue on TV screen before the eyes of everyone who can watch such programmes. Sometimes, I want to ask them, hey, you, what are you disputing about, for whom is this show? TV viewers know even the details of your debates. They have become traditional because dispute dialogues of this kind end in a draw, and the both parties stay pleased with themselves. I think everyone won several points by demonstrating his/her “great” intellect.



Once I told one participator that there were wide opportunities to give it good to the debaters; they would forget about dispute dialogues. He assumed a significantly serious air and said with respectful note in his voice: "Winners are not beaten! In our days, it is rather easier to mercy, especially as it is much cheaper and more humane. This is first. Second, if the question is stated this way and if reaction is strict, there will be no one to dispute with and to exchange socially important opinions with. The opinions themselves do not mean anything, I agree with you; what is important is the very process!"

After that, Tofiq muallim, I do not ask about important things like that any more. I think, he explained everything so distinctly and easily to understand that I lost any desire to make clear anything else. If only everything were the same during TV debates! To all appearances, sometimes the process is no less important than the result. I understood one more thing: nearly everybody needs dispute dia-



logues. Everything is not as it seems at first sight. This often happens.

At least you may believe me that I do not have malicious intent. I do not wish anything bad to anyone, and frankly speaking, I share my thoughts with no one on earth. I know that you are not a stranger, you will not betray me! I apologize beforehand for hurting someone or if someone took it as referring to him/herself. This is just a private conversation. It is not addressed to anyone: I just want to speak out, to relieve from evil and not evil thoughts. It is much better than to live and suffer from thoughts that create inner discomfort. Now the place of the thoughts is empty and sacred. I promise you, Tofig muallim, protect this sanctity till the end. You know, I dislike two things most of all: distrust and offence. For me, distrust is like a knife thrust into a heart; offence is little easier to bear, though it torments me and does not leave me until a person having a grudge against me forgives me. That is my strange character. I did not



want to hurt anyone and will not. If someone felt hurt, do know Tofiq muallim, it is groundless. I am sorry about persistence in the mentioned matters. I did not want that, but everything has turned out as I have told you. I tried to keep to rules, i.e. not to poke my nose into other people's affairs, several times. However, sometimes, it is difficult to control oneself. I have a presentiment that my restless inner voice will lead me to trouble.





MOTHERLAND AND NATION

**National interests are
above people's welfare...**

It was a cardinal question for you. No meeting with or talk to you was held without it. Let's give up these thoughts because you are interested in another thing at the moment: what is going on in the Republic, in native Azerbaijan? You know, I find difficulty in replying that not difficult question. Oil and gas are working for the country. It means we have money and it is enough for a long time. Houses, schools, medical centers, bridges, roads are built. Salary and pension are growing. There is marked improvement in agriculture, cattle-breeding. Main roads in Baku are asphalted and widened where possible. The city park, Boulevard, is changed and growing more beautiful, musical fountains make you calm and distract from vanity of our existence. Power is in strong hands. That is how it should



be. Delicate hands and fear in heart would not let keep power which does its work in a stable way. Not an unworthy person has a chance to claim for power. That's why, the so-called power "likers" remain in a strange position. They seem to understand the situation little by little. There are significant positive changes in citizens' consciousness.

For me, the main service of the present power is that, thanks to it, we, citizens of Baku and other cities and towns of Azerbaijan, overcame fear that engendered in our hearts in the 90s. We are not afraid of walking in streets at nights, we leave our property, cars in the streets without fear. We did not have this peace during the Soviet period. Naturally, everyone has his/her subjective opinion. Though, I think most people will agree with me about that. We must speak about that, inform those who still consider us to be a part of "unknown" East, of restless and unstable Caucasus, and have only one negative word in their mind to describe us,



a Caucasian. This stereotype has struck roots in western visitors' consciousness and subconsciousness so deeply that they are really surprised when visit our country that they discover as Columbus did America. I know that not by hearsay. You know I have a hotel where guests from Europe, America, and Asia stay. They cannot believe in what they see and enjoy that along with us. A quite different world is opened to them, speaking in the language of Ancient Romans, "*terrae incognitae*". It is better to see once than to hear a hundred times!

What is more important is that an absolute majority of the population is satisfied with the present power. It does not do to delve deeply into details. Let's conclude this part by saying that every citizen of a country is a carrier, alive showing of social and cultural level of his /her country. One should love his/her Motherland, so that the land we live in will not lose its sanctity, i.e. a showing of honour and dignity of



every individual. I am deeply convinced of that and you agree with me, I know.

What is the opposition doing, you may ask? If the power feels good, the opposition may feel comfortable. This is an intellectual question. You, as a historian, should be informed about it. Recently, our destiny and power in the country turned out to be in the hands of the opposition. History is full of surprises. Anyway, you have guessed, there is no opposition as such. The very members of the opposition, who remain, live and amuse themselves with the idea of missed opportunity, a delusive hope for power in future. They are behaving very quietly. Though, sometimes they meet together and pose for cameras, and every time something is wrong: sometimes suits are not right, sometimes the ties are out of fashion or something else. They say, the main is another thing: some former companions-in-arms differ from others by their appearances and strange brilliance in the eyes. Of course, people envy them and they



say that there are few of them left, therefore, authorities could stroke them, as Russians say, could “iron” them. Poor men, they do not understand that there are serious procedures prior to desired “ironing”: the main thing is radical cleaning and washing with detergent of the best quality. It is said to remove all stains, filth of time, while a hot iron is the last instrument to complete the procedure. It both presses and kills the remainder of non-traditional viruses with its heat. When have passed the procedure, a man becomes transparent as glass and, if succeeded during the process, he can choose any comfortable pose for TV cameras. Nobody will trouble him then.

Speaking with the sense of humour and sarcasm about the opposition, I do not intend to hurt some of them and to please the others. Any object should have its value. This is a dynamic and changeable notion. It cannot exist in one and the same form for a long time. I have thought and still think that notions like malice,



envy, hatred should not be inherit to a human being. If one lives long with these feelings in his/her heart, he/she will not be able to leave them, because they will become his/her “own” and that will destroy him/her. Without driving away such devil from inside, one cannot expect joy and success that are needed for a reasonable creature, a man, considered to be a crown of the Creation. With evil in the heart, one cannot dream of good.

Therefore, Tofiq muallim, our talk to you makes me courageous to unburden my heart to you, hoping that, as a man of wisdom, you understand me better than whomever else. Our last conversation to you inspired hope in me that you and me think one and the same way. The 30-minute-long talk revealed me your inner world, your inmost thoughts. I can read what is not written but meant since my childhood. Therefore, in my childhood, I was called with an indecent word (I will not sound it knowing the reader’s psychology – he can remember it



for a long time), meaning that I can see not only what is on the carpet but also what is under it. I, of course, used to be deeply offended then, but they were grown men, and in fact, they were right. Unfortunately, their vocabulary and the level of village intellect did not give them an opportunity to express their opinion with a milder word. They did not know, in their innocence, that a child remembers everything seen, heard, learnt and experienced in his childhood till the end of his life. Of course, neither they nor I knew Sigmund Freud's theory of subconsciousness then.

Well, that is in the past; to return to the past should be only if extremely necessary, and only for pleasant recollections. Thus, I am sure that we have found a common tongue with you, a common counting point, and common playground for the game called "life philosophy". This game is very difficult, but, please, do not think I started praising myself. Now I see you are in the power of this most interesting



game. We will have much time to train and to play this game properly.

That is what is going on. I have told you all this to please your heaven inquisitiveness. I have nothing else to say about that. I think I dared much enough. We have our own problems. Do not think I am complaining, no. We live with peace in the heart as we have to prepare our souls to “flight”. This is the principal concern in the life when you are more than sixty. The soul of those who do not think about that grows scanty.

The world is developing and changing. Nowadays, all the peoples of the planet are very sad and anxious. Those who can catch up with those walking too fast, while those who failed, fall behind, sometimes very much. The distance between them is growing day by day. I think those who walk slowly, will creep soon, and at a certain moment will stop moving. That, perhaps, would be better. The world is very compound today. One should keep pace



with the present which is changing very quickly. The wind of change can blow both to the back and to the forehead. Plunderer countries are waiting for someone to get stuck. They will swallow them immediately.

You see, when you have nothing exact to talk about you utter too many unnecessary words. On the other hand, do we both need that, who walks slowly or who walks quickly? It is impossible to mourn over the whole world; tears will not be enough, though it is not needed because one can lose his/her sight, and then there will be no concern any more. The best think is not to be in somebody's way, as they will fail to see you in a hurry and can trample under foot. Who needs that? That has been the question since earliest times. I will give an exact answer to this question: we need neither following those walking fast nor being in somebody's way.

You may ask me *where the adherence to principles, civic duty, duties before the mankind are.*



Well, I will answer to that as well. In my opinion, our duty is to live and to let others live. Is there any contradiction in that? Everyone should live as he/she can. I believe that a desire to stop a fast going train is the deepest human error, a vice, an obsession. One should not confuse self-respect with the sense of invented civic duty, as a citizen of this world of diversity. If we let contradictory senses of this kind overwhelm our souls and bodies, be sure that after incompatibility there will remain disappointment and inner confusion.

It is for about a year the world has been experiencing the hardest times for economy and finances. Supporters and followers of the capitalism have done a bad turn and now they try to improve the system of financial and economic relations in favour of state regulation in their own way. In other words, they believe that liberal market economy that is the foundation of the capital model of social and political system must be transparent and controlled by



the state. This is contradictory to the conception of capitalism development. K.Marx and his followers called this model a state capitalism, which supporters of capitalistic manufacture do not agree with up to now.

Now, a necessity emerges to build something middle between capitalism and socialism, a hybrid system regulated by economy, economic relations, i.e. this symbiosis must start a new form of social system, to put it mildly, something like **socio-capitalism**. The words "*register*" and "*control*" have become important in the vocabulary of free enterprise, registering not only own property, what is normal, but also the property of all participants of economic and financial relations in society. Is this a collapse of capitalism? Or is there another definition for such unprecedented turning-point in the development of capitalism? Perhaps, we could call it **developed capitalism** by analogy with developed socialism?! Or shall we return to K.Marx's



thought again and call it what it is, decaying capitalism?

A huge military and financial empire, no matter it is USSR or the USA, has collapsed before the eyes of the world community. Perhaps, right were those who said that an empire, strong at the expanse of power, exists until it uses the very power, its military and economic potential, against others. History of ruined empires of Antiquity and the Middle Ages up to our days proves that. Using power in Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Afghanistan “helped” the USA to turn into a large uncontrolled community of different people each of which has their own selfish ends. So, it means that there is nowhere to go ahead, and, actually, the system has exhausted its potentialities and come to a collapse. This deplorable experience of the powerful capitalistic state has jeopardized, as it was expected, the world economic and financial system with collapse: the example of the USSR is still fresh and present. Most experts are inclined



to think that collapse across the Atlantic is already a fact.

As a result, approximately all the countries are on the bottom of a deep economic and financial hole. To come out from there is said to be a very complicated job. History has no experience of that. Everything should be started with a “blank sheet of paper”, invented in motion and before everybody’s eyes. If someone fails immediately after the USA, he/she will appear on the dump of history. Nobody wishes that, of course. However, a desire is said to mean nothing. In general, it is too difficult to come to any decision now. Most high-ranking officials, “economic knows-all”, have drooped with despair of the situation. They blame one another, as if someone was pulling the economic and financial “cart” up to the mountain alone and, accidentally or consciously, slackened the reins and washed his hands of it. In the West, this version is as a phantom of the collapsing capitalism, though the mind is un-



able to believe in the reality. Nonetheless, the economic and financial hole is getting wider and deeper, as it will have to swallow more new victims. All countries and populations are in one big boat that the crisis swings stronger and stronger.

The world is divided into three groups: developed, developing and underdeveloped countries. Is not there a real variant to escape a deep crisis? It is an interesting intellectual question.

Tofiq muallim, you have become sad! You did not expect such a turning-point? You are asking how we will live further. There should be a way out of the situation. I understand you, and I can say that I thought like you till recently. It is a paradox, but, as a matter of fact, the capital as a basis of development and prosperity is preventing from progressing, putting obstacles on the way of development of the world as a whole and its constituents. Regress, the so-called recession, is coming. This word is new for most people, they do not understand



its meaning, but everybody is afraid of it. It seems to be thought up to keep people in ignorance, because, as a rule, a human being is afraid of something unknown most of all.

Some international experts believe that what is going on in the economic and financial spheres of the USA, Europe, Japan and Russia is rather a result of coordination of world's capital and Mikhail Gorbachev's sudden collapse of socialism and, hence, violation of counterbalance and balance in world economy and politics. This is my view. The "guys" made mistake when heading the world "ship" which is fighting not only heel and holes, but also storms in the open ocean. Do you remember in the beginning of the 90s of the last century we talked that *"the USSR is beyond the power of the USA and the West as a whole. Once it will stick in their craw. To take the country of won socialism out of there or to swallow it will result in one and the same: the gullet will be damaged and the stomach will stop serving a shark appetite of big and active*



oceanic fish". We joked then that "there is no fish better than a Gedabey trout. It gladdens the eye and creates no problems for stomach".

A desire to swallow a big tasty morsel like the USSR and the socialistic world as a whole became a pernicious mistake for the world capitalism. Eagerness has not spared anyone yet. This brings a Chinese wisdom to my mind literally meaning that 'if you fire a gun into the past, the future will fire a cannon into you'. History of billions of people deprived of livelihood, especially, a hope, is capable, with heavenly power, to take vengeance on the world community for such an unforgivable and, to all appearances, conscious mistake of inaccurate calculation. This is the opinion of many western experts, and we partially agree with them. The developing part of the world which was by itself, like an impassioned hungry "hare", must somehow help "unlucky" developed capitalism recover from chronic diseases, and must pay for ir-



regularities in its economic and financial system.

Another paradox of today's situation is if there is such a disease and experts of the developed world recognize their incapability to do something, then recovering is impossible, preventive measures being late. Only hope for non-traditional medicine is left, for remedies which are more than enough in China, though not enough for everybody. Nonetheless, the elite of world society can be treated. China expectedly follows the way of wise Confucius and relies upon its own strength. Endurance and labour, discipline and obedience saved the dignity of this peaceful and great nation. Besides, you know well that the third world has nothing to offer. Everything they had was eaten by capitalist colonialists as far back as the last century.

I understand your concern. Where is the way out? What do I think about that? *It is not clear now in what direction to develop if both the systems (capitalism and socialism) have signs of a*



rift. The wheel of history is towing too much, and nobody can explain what is going on. Why did all people simultaneously happen to be on a slippery road leading straight to the economic and financial hole?!

I think most people are inclined, in a burst of emotions due to despair, to the unity of positive potentialities of the both systems and to researches and working up a new economic and financial structure. Let's call it conditionally *socio-capitalism*, and, correspondently, a general world security conception. Naturally, searching for optimal solutions will take much time. Moreover, it is necessary to clarify what NATO, the Pentagon, and US Military-Industrial Complex devouring a third of the American budget will do. These professionals, hungry and armed to the teeth, will probably express their views. Then nobody will dare object them, as they created these monsters themselves and will become their first victims. It is obvious, though everybody prefers keeping secret such a turn-



ing-point. I understand them well. Talks are not enough. One should do something, but nobody knows what to do.

Naturally, despite a tragic nature of today's world developments, there should be an intermediate stage. There are no desperate situations. So, it is necessary to try to search for a way out. The world's best economists, financiers and politicians are seriously engaged with this very business. Nobody can predict what their efforts will result in. Everyone offers his/her own version, each in his/her own way. However, one thing is clear: again long-suffering nations will bear the brunt of changes. That already was in the past, before our epoch. This tradition, "kind" and effective for power holders, has always saved them first, though for nations and their countries were helpful the endurance and courage of the very nations. *You see, Tofiq muallim, old experienced traditions of our wise ancestors are still effective in our days, in such a difficult time. It is a pity that they did not leave*



receipts, ready solutions for all occasions in life. Nonetheless, you will agree with me that our forefathers are pure and fair before present and future generations!





SOCIAL FEELING...

**Society is a product
of human thoughts
and decisions**

Tofiq muallim, I know it to be one of the few important questions you, as a historian, paid special attention to. You used to say that "a society is as living being like we are. It has all the attributes of a living being. It reacts to everything: joy, pain, and suffering. Society and we are a whole. Therefore, the state of society is our state..."

Following your definition, I have tried to clear up the problem and found some answers confirming your arguments. I agree with you that it is impossible to separate a human being and society. Even jails are a part of society, in spite of the fact that detainees are thought to be isolated from society. It would be better to say that their rights are limited and they cannot enjoy equal rights like the rest members of society.



The paradox is that the so-called isolated citizens of society have the fundamental rights, especially franchise. I think, lawyers and legal scholars got entangled by definitions, but this is beyond our conversation. I hope they make clear the problem one day.

We better continue our talk in the direction it can be more profitable to all of us. We have been talking about how society feels. This depends on us on a large scale. Therefore, it would be better to talk about it aloud and to express my opinion about that. I see you do not mind!

You may often become an involuntary participant or a witness of talks between quite imposing, intelligent people. Some of them unwittingly express their dissatisfaction with society or with those who, by their status, should keep order in society. There are always enough persons discontent with society. This took place in the past, too. The virtuality of such an approach and the absence of a concrete object of criticism give people an opportunity to



talk about that and to get rid of negative emotions. This is good in some way. There are cases when somebody makes a stand for society with timid. Apparently, they do not understand the meaning of their actions completely, since there is no a concrete person to blame. However, this does not prevent most people from abandoning their view; they think society might be better or give everybody what he/she likes.

Naturally, I understand the complicity of the problem. It has always been people's concern and will be as long as we live and think, exchange our opinions and stay in one and the same society. I believe that when a person is aged 35 to 40, he/she must start thinking over lofty matters, over who he/she is indeed, what has given to his/her family, nation, country, and society as a whole. After that you may ask yourself what they must have given to you in return. After a just answer to the question is found, you may imagine the correspondence of the desired to the existing and understand the



essence of your being in the world. When inter-related with society, it is always better to receive less than to give. This is a centuries-old wisdom and order of forming and development of any society. If it were otherwise, a society would probably not have a potential for development and compensation of what it cannot get from others who want to receive something from society they live in and cannot give anything to it, i.e. to state treasury. Anyway, people are always in debt of society, though, judging by society members' deeds, they think quite the contrary. The world is established this way. We always, or nearly always, blame the society that it is not like we want it to be. It means a conscious evasion from individual responsibility for the state of society.

Society is not an amorphous notion, rather specific one. It consists of us, we create it, and strange as it may be, we aspire to get what the society would never borrow from us. It has no such needs. What society needs is defined by



what we are able to do for its normal functioning. There is a certain interrelation between each of us separately and the community of members of which we are.

We have repeatedly said that society is a product of human thoughts, deeds, and decisions. Therefore, we must take care of it as a joint product of our collective actions.

All we believe that society manages, leads us, makes us respectable citizens, members of one team. In general, it is true. We are one team. Like any team, this one must work in well co-ordinated, collectively and in as synchronous as possible way. Only then society will turn to a comfortable home for everyone. The absence of coincidence in our deeds related to the very society will have an inevitably negative impact on all of us. The provision of synchronization and congruence of society members' deeds and actions is the main leverage, the best way of keeping peace and concord in the country as a whole.



Society, no matter how we judge it, has a peculiar intellect, i.e. an ability of gathering, comparing results of its members' deeds and actions. Following the above-said, it creates some universal variants for independent functioning and provision of equal conditions for all subjects of society. Taking into consideration our distinct features and characters, different approaches to many things, the society forms universal standards for general use. Nonetheless, it cannot take into consideration the diversity of characters, deeds and attitudes completely. However, it must have a right to move changes taking into account the interests of the majority of the population under all circumstances. This principle is initially laid in the foundation of any society.

The complex of such orders is often concretely and clearly shaped in the Constitution, the General Law of the state. What is beyond it has no legitimacy. However, rules of interrelations within a society, though accepted not in a



legislative way, have a real effect on our behavior and relations with other subjects. These are unwritten norms like time-honoured traditions, customs and rites.

Thus is created certain integrity of our existence in one human society with people who are bound with a common care of keeping fundamental norms fixed in the Constitution or socially accepted and having the status of “unwritten but stable laws”. By protecting them, we protect ourselves and our families from criminal deeds menacing their health and quiet living. In other words, by protecting a neighbour from a criminal, we provide our security and vice versa. The result is one and the same.

Society’s feeling depends on the state of each individual. This is the power of society. If it were a charity organization, like many people think, just ruins of it would be left. Back to the above-said, I would like to underline again that society must receive more than it is able to give.



This is the basis of its functioning, preservation of its ability of being a keeper of our common House. Otherwise, society will never develop, and stagnation will come.

Such a surplus of something less received, roughly speaking, resembles in some way obligatory administration maintenance costs of a cottage in which you live for several months a year, but have to pay money to keep it well-conditioned at any time to be able to welcome you, your descendents and heirs.

Society is a seasonal shelter for members of a large “worldly cooperative”: some people come, others go. By structure, such “housing cooperative” must stand all natural cataclysms and human passions. Our wonderful world is established this way. To change or try to rearrange anything within it is an ungrateful job, moreover, it is not perspective. *It is better to keep order and cleanness of your place – a room in the cooperative which is a part of the whole, i.e. me and you, Tofiq muallim, are founders of a peculiar “co-*



operative” which I consider our society to be. Logic suggests that society’s felling and state are fully dependent upon each of us.

Proceeding from the above said, I would come to a conclusion that the society we created needs love and care more than groundless criticism and discontent. Sometimes, one must realize the reality. If this is the case, we will inevitably understand the fact that, subconsciously, by criticizing society, we deal with self-criticism. To change society one should change himself/herself first of all. Nothing will come out of that otherwise. History of human society development gives an opportunity to talk of that.

I see, Tofig muallim, you have become calm after you learned that some of our citizens think over the society they live in from time to time. There is your place, too. Say, your cottage is inherited by your children and grandchildren. I think we will have time to speak about other things. This is important for me as well.



STATE AND CITIZENS

**Mutual responsibility of the
state and citizens is an important
condition for their preservation**

You partially know what I am going to tell you, though, perhaps, you are not completely aware of my attitude to the matters. Therefore, taking chance of talking to you, I would like to familiarize you, as a historian and social scientist, with my view on what interrelation between state and citizens are. This is one of the most important questions of our existence. Naturally, it requires a special approach and more correct assessment.

For recent 100 years, history showed a lot of situations when a state was unable to keep promises made to its citizens and a number of its legal obligations. Therefore, several generations of our compatriots had to stand a lot: in the Soviet period, currency reform was held twice, in the post-Soviet period, it was held once



and accompanied with hidden devaluation; actually, the population lost the money kept as savings in banks. It was refused to exchange loans that the state spread forcibly among its citizens at difficult times. Not a state was able to avoid such situations in the financial and economic sphere. So, it is not safe to lend money to the state, since it is always risky to lose it. However, nothing depends on us and the state, no matter how strange it sounds.

As a matter of fact, the state must be extremely interested in keeping confidence of its citizens, founders of a specific political system as an acceptable structure of general administration. With that, we, creators of the state, must share its responsibility and risks that might appear during the development of society and state building process. No matter what our and foreign “judges” of our society think of us, we are neither a colony nor others’ subordinates. Like an established nation, we choose a



leader from among us and entrust our destiny to him by presenting him wide authorities.

I am ready to insist on my view that the representatives of all established nations think nearly the same. Otherwise, it is difficult to accept losses, at least due to one's self-esteem, for preservation of self-respect. He will not consider himself a part of the established nation. All we, irrespective of age and social position, like integrity, completeness, and always aspire to harmony and concord. Citizens who do not suffer from intellectual crisis must think so. This is a certain debt to the nation and its elected leader who is the guarantee of our rights. However, not a president in the world is able to withstand single-handed natural catastrophes – earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanos, floods, and tsunamis. If we add the modern vague financial and economic crisis to all that, it would be clear that it is impossible to foreknow everything. To relieve those guilty for this destructive crisis of responsibility, everybody, or



nearly everybody, is inclined to think that this is a calamity of all countries and peoples.

I am sure the Man Upstairs has no direct relations to earthly realities. He has his own plans, forecasts and “communication facilities”. Sometimes we manage to guess His secrets, for example to forecast weather and behavior of nature in advance. These are only details, nuances that we can reckon upon. The rest is beyond our power, but it is impolite, unethical and improper to blame the other power of our human disasters and misfortune.

We cannot know who and why sends down, or most likely creates these disasters to us. Our surmises are a result of our imagination, the bounds of which are often too wide and indistinct. Perhaps, our consciousness must convince us somehow of appearance of such surprises, and it seems to be doing that within its limitedness and abilities. Frankly speaking, the freedom of thinking and acting as one thinks best does not often conform to the reality



of our position in the world. Fantasies are wide, while chances to cognize what is going on are limited. So, we wander in the space between fantasies and limitedness of our consciousness, desires and realities. Life is passing in search of the connection (harmony) of these notions. History shows that our ancestors failed to find it. Judging by the results of the science of cognition of nature, as well as of the essence of a human being, our contemporary, in their multiple-choice demonstrations, we will probably fail too to find out the reasons of what is going on.

The state, as the basic institution of political system, is a capacious and impressive notion with specific tasks and results of its functioning. It has both wide potentialities and a lot of restrictions that have a significant effect on our welfare. Power is unable to do what is beyond its potentialities. However, it would be better if every member of society realizes the bounds of these potentialities. Nonetheless,



he/she acts in a quite opposite way intuitively, the way that is convenient to him/her, hoping for power's unlimited potentialities. Otherwise, it would be unpleasant to him/her to accept his/her failure of cognizing nature and society in the person of power. This being the case, one can feel himself/herself a needless figure among others of the like. This, indeed, appeals negative emotions, and nobody would like to be under their influence for a long time. In fact, a gradual crisis of mind is taking place, if one can put it that way. Our mind is unable to comprehend the essence, the meaning of what is going on around us, both in society and in actions of the power we elected.

For this very reason sometimes a desire to destroy, turn over and recreate everything appears. History experienced that repeatedly. Unfortunately, one generation had to restore what had been destroyed by another. One lifetime is not enough for completion of such reconstructions. It is considered to be easy to change



while building than to recreate after destruction. It is less painful and much cheaper, though it only seems like that. In reality, everything is much more complicated. Therefore, previously unjustified risk can end in a catastrophe for the whole society. A sensible calculation of all these factors may give every member of society, citizen of the state, a real chance to estimate his/her place among others, to make more exact and ground his/her claims to visual environment. I would like to believe that we will feel better, respect ourselves and society, and do our best to make it better. Even an incomplete study of society shows that interrelations between state and citizens depend in many respects on our active position in protection of the basics of statehood and principles enshrined in the General Law of the country. Naturally, this position does not relieve those who we voluntarily delegate rights to of responsibility. Even leaders of not numerous African tribes failed to protect these rights and to



place them at their own service. Probably, for this reason members of society have a responsible attitude to the choice of their leader by giving him chances to make difficult decisions on development of the country and state preservation. Everybody knows that of two soldiers only one has the right to make a decision; otherwise, both of them can suffer. What to say then about a society of billion people having rights? In such a situation, one should imagine, at least theoretically, what a chaos will come if every member of society only asserts his/her rights! Situations like this partly took place in a primitive society, and it is for this reason that those tribes disappeared. At best, a tribal chief could use his strength and demand fellow tribesmen to make a contribution into common work.

Little has changed since then... There only appeared laws, better modern mechanisms regulating interrelations between society members, the latest technologies of implementation



of the above-said interrelations and many other things. However, the principle laid down in the foundation of the primitive society remains unshakeable. The level of human knowledge has increased; the world has switched from a chaotic brutal barbarism to more civilized methods of food production, establishment of interrelations and meeting ones' needs. There appeared more clear outlines defining the conditions of co-existence both within one society or state and within relationships with other societies and states, citizens of which differ little in their desires, abilities and claims. Thanks God, everybody lives according to their circumstances and the level of society development. *However, this is the subject of another talk. There is nothing left to do for you and me, but only establish the necessity of state's and citizens' mutual responsibility before each other, and, of course, before the society. Our welfare and future depend on the degree of more accurate realizing of this responsibility.*



**A SENSE OF ENVY.
A SENTIMENTAL TALK...**

**Belief is not gained – it is formed
since the very birth on the basis
of selfless devotion and self-sacrifice**

For my conscious life among other creatures of God, I have happened several times to be upset by the fact that envy is often an obstacle in people's everyday life. Few people can fight it. If one does not have a sense of humour, an ability of joking and making fun, life on the earth becomes gloomier. Therefore, this part of our conversation covers both of them in some way. They say that someone's glory or noticeable brilliant talent can have a pernicious influence on some people. A sense of envy, as it seems to me, is someone's incapability to reach the heights of his/her object of envy. This negative feeling hardens not only the soul of an envious person, but also makes turbid his mind.



Then he/she is unable to define his deeds in accordance with circumstances. Therefore, in single cases, he/she can reach the glory and respect as the object his/her envy does in order to do harm and to ruin his and others' lives.

A human being can get rid of envy on his own, and overcome evil in his heart. This is a high price for release from evil spirits. Having released from them, a man can help himself and others to feel the beauty of life in its various manifestations. He will experience joy, love self-esteem in full. He will without fail be glad to that as a baby taking his first steps. A quite another world will appear before his eyes, and people and things will assume a new true value.

Through such transformation, man saves his soul and becomes a true bearer of a high title – Man (Human being). Other people's advices or interference in this pure personal process are out of place. A human being is the master of his own feelings, actions and relations



with others. He alone can define his place on earth, in society, if only he wants. Everything is in his hands. When he strives for good, God only helps him carry out good intentions. Life proves that. Otherwise, life loses its meaning. To live for the sake of evil doing is Satan's business. This is not related to what I am going to tell you.

Do you remember a story I told you about ten years ago? *We laughed then much and agreed that sometimes a human being sins without wishing that. That happens too often.*

Sheikh-ul-Islam and we were leaving the Presidential Apparatus. He had a permit to drive up the building through the president's gateway and to ascend on a special elevator. Well, when we went out to the street, a very young beautiful girl passed by us. It was summer time. She, of course, was able to tease men with her beautiful and perfect body. She had little clothes on her. Everything emitted impulses when she walked and attacked with the



woman's strongest weapon, unearthly beauty; every man, her admirer, could be taken aback for a while not knowing what to do. Adrenalin was overfilling, brains worked on the verge of its capability. Eyes, the main impulses transmitter, suffered most of all.

So, sheikh and we stopped for a while; everyone turned his eyes on that unearthly paragon of beauty. I do not know how long we stayed in that state of bliss. Passers-by started noticing sheikh's suite puzzled with something. Sheikh, who had much experience of such situations, came to his senses first. He said in a low voice: "Let's go!" He murmured something while getting into the car first, then said: "What is our fault before the Mighty? Why did He write so many points to our scales of sins?" He knew that, according to religion, to gaze at a woman with lust is equal to adultery, but continued saying with a sense: "Are we blame that Allah created such an angel in the person of beautiful girls?!" Everyone kept silent while we



were moving from the Presidential Apparatus to a mosque. We entered the yard and sheikh told Salman Musayev, his assistant: "Go and pray for us too, I am not able to make such confessions."

That incident suggested me that beauty is a dangerous and multipurpose means. It can save and destroy at the same time. It is far from right to live with a desire to see beauty every time. One must be able to see both beauty and imperfection of life, and to strive for compensating one senses with others, i.e. to create some spiritual balance.

They say that all powers belong to God; only one power belongs to man, i.e. power over his emotions and desires.

I think sheikh and we failed then to overcome our emotions and desires.

In general, sheikh is a very joyful and friendly person; he was easy to talk with, to go somewhere, it was easy and pleasant to be his guest. He has always helped his relatives and



friends. He is a good father, he spares nothing for his children and their families; he is ready to die for his son. He has one son, may Allah protect him!

Generally, sheikh-ul-Islam has many positive features, let alone small sins which are not taken into account.

What he really needs most of all, I hope he will forgive me, is a high level of piety. By character, he is not a man of religion. His life-style was and is very active, which supposes far many actions than it becomes to a truly religious figure. This is, as a matter of fact, is incompatible with his rank. Belief requires self-sacrifice, and he, as our Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said about himself 14 centuries ago, is a man taking life in all its manifestations too. *Our talk to you, Tofiq muallim, is of nature of frankness and honesty in some way. This is what commits me to keeping within the appropriate bounds. You know very well that piety, more exactly, belief, is not gained, but formed since childhood. As*



he said, in his childhood, when he studied in Tashkent, he used to miss lessons to earn his living, and he has been grown as a lucky businessman, and he has not managed to fight down this second nature up to now. It is not his fault that he has been appointed the leader of Caucasus Muslim Board (CMB) at the age of 30. There were no other worthy candidates then. That was the first case in 140-year-long history of Caucasus Muslim Board. Previous sheikhs were at more respectful age. He is the 12th in succession and the youngest CMB leader. In fact, CMB kept to, say, parole then. There was no active religious life in the atheistic Soviet state; the mosque was not enough profitable, while children were born and grown up. It was necessary to provide them with food and clothes. That's why he had to develop his other skills in parallel with religious activities. Thanks God, officials helped him with that. Sheikh's authority, businessman skills and ability to find a way out of different situations



helped him much. He has a vivid, universal personality. He feels comfort and good.

Besides, Tofiq muallim, an idea has been instilled into us that a minister of religion is a holy person and lives for the sake of love to God. Nonetheless, history provides a lot of cases when catholic cardinals kept lovers in nunneries, engaged in paedophilia, earned dirty money. There are such religious figures among Muslims as well. Some Arabian sheikhs and their children go to entertain to Europe where they have own villas, palaces and billions in banks and bank interests. According to Islam, money interests are great sin. People getting money interests are usually not considered Muslims. However, these sheikhs personify an ideal Muslim as you please. Everything in this world is known in comparison. Our religious figure is above all them in this respect. All we are human beings, so nothing human is alien to him. I understand him, and I have neither right nor desire to blame or reproach him. Every person chooses his own path



defining his own destiny. He was said many scurrilous things about. The major part of what is said or written is a fruit of journalists' ill imagination and has been incited by close people who have had a dinner with him in the evening and order "unmasking" article about him in the morning. Despite his high rank and sound body, he is a very vulnerable and sensitive person. He can get offended because of a trifle. He feels bad and uncomfortable when he is offended. We do not wish him anything offensive, Tofig muallim. There are no grounds for that. That's why everything is clear and simple.

Back to the beginning of the talk with you, I have to notice with regret that there are hardly few true religious figures in the world. True religious persons emit a great deal of positive emotions; a magical purifying aura is hovering around them. A talk of half an hour's duration with such spiritual personalities can change even criminals to the best.



Where have you led me? Let's talk about something amusing. You always liked amusement. We all liked interesting stories, parables that made us joyful and were useful.





**THE RURAL PAST...
GOOD, EVIL AND
MERRY-GO-ROUND OF LIFE**

**Human relations are based on
two important contradictions – good
and evil. Evil immerses a human
being in the dark of excitement**

Do you remember the summer of 1987 in the village of Isaly, where the members of your large family, 25 to 30 persons, gathered? You used, as if by chance, to talk about different things and between times to teach children and others to live. I remember one of those talks completely. You were saying: *“The world and human relations are based on two eternal contradictions – good and evil. They accompany a human being all his life. For example, you have some good. Evil tries to deprive you of that by all means. Sometimes it succeeds. A person who lost his good is offended, and he does not blame himself of that, but*



evil. Therefore, the man decides to take vengeance on evil and starts pursuing it in the hope of that. Meanwhile, your good is moving far and far away from you, and you, inconsolable, are doing your best to get your evil. This is what it needs. In chase of evil, you do make mistakes and even evil. Evil wins. It has managed to entrap one more human being. If you have acted otherwise, you would have found new good. You would have gone forward with patience and zeal, without harbouring hate towards evil. At the end, evil would have been tired of that senseless situation and would have left you”.

When saying that, you pictured the supposed good and evil in the shape of a human being.

Not everyone understood, of course. Ages were different. I made a corresponding conclusion: one cannot catch evil. It is like a phantom. It exists but it is invisible. Your anger and hatred make you get closer to the phantom, and the closer you are, the more painful it is. You were right a hundred times; I tested that in



search of good. Your piece of wise advice became useful. I have been trying to be guided by good. Perhaps, one should love it, take care of it, and if necessary, to share a part of it with someone else. Good does not grow less because of that. It occupies a firm place in your heart, and it is not afraid of evil.

You gave a lot of pieces of good advice. One can write a book about them. Thank you for your care about your children and those who became members of your large family.

You have become sad again. Perhaps, you have remembered your village where you opened your eyes to this world and informed everyone with your cry that you had come into the world. There is a whole layer of human relations between your coming and going. You would come up with good step by step, do good and it elevated you. You said that "evil drags someone down, while good elevates". This is the truth of life, of world creation, the essence of our existence, both earthly and heavenly.



ONCE AGAIN ABOUT THE VILLAGE. THE MOTHER COW

**Evil must be punished,
while good
measured out in doses**

Do you remember your village, cattle? Farmers fed it with mixed fodder. The meat of lamb or calf did not change the taste because of such forage. The citizens of Caspian villages near Baku city fed their poultry with unsold fish. In this case both the meat and eggs smelled fish for some reason. We studied at university then and joked that “chicken was prepared in fish sauce again”. Nobody spoke about eggs, nobody dared to. Probably, it was too difficult to look into the egg. Though an idea what chick would hatch out of such egg has not abandoned me. It is still a riddle for me. Now there is no enough fish for people themselves. They forgot about feeding poultry with



fish. Nowadays, to cook fish for guests costs much more than a good pilaff.

Our Caspian Sea has impoverished. However, one can always get fresh fish at supermarkets by 8 to 9 manats per kilo. By the way, it is tasty and, moreover, you are not afraid of having a food poisoning. "It is super, wow!" like children say nowadays.

Speaking about your village, cattle, I remember my village first of all. I was a 12-year-old boy then. I coped with all cattle and poultry alone. Today I cannot imagine how I managed to do that, and once a month to pasture cattle (sheep and 70 head of cattle) because we did not have a regular herdsman. At the same time I was a high achiever, walked to neighbouring village school 4 km there and back. I have tried several times to calculate time to understand how I could carry out so many huge and different jobs. I failed of course. Probably, heavenly powers helped me much. I could not have done it otherwise. I was the youngest herdsman in



the village. Nonetheless, animals obeyed me. At first, none in the village wanted to substitute me, to our great surprise; my mother offered good money for those times to save me from the business of herdsman. My father, now he is 85, worked as a chief accountant in a collective farm then; he has never asked anyone for anything, so he left the question of cattle for us to decide. This amazing person has never done evil for his life. His credo is "Only good can fight evil!"

It became clear later that local "intellectuals" decided to make fun of the son of the chief accountant, a second man by his occupation after the chairman of the collective farm. Strange as it may be, they expected support of my "pastured horny friends". Among the latter was an 8 or 9-year-old neighbour's cow of gold yellow colour, with beautiful horns and kind eyes. I was very excited, of course, when carried out my duties of a herdsman. The cattle were usually pastured on the forest edge. There were



disobedient bulls and 2 or 3-year-old heifers among the cattle which I was pasturing. I would compare the neighbour's cow, if it is theoretically possible, to mother Teresa (God rest the soul of the kindest of the mothers of the world! I did not know anything about her then of course). Naturally, I was afraid that villagers would be able to make fun of me, and so I tried my best to keep the cattle together and keep an eye on them. Fortunately, it was a quiet day. The mother cow controlled the rest of the cattle. I had a snack of a bunch of grapes, a slice of bread with cheese and I was pleased. However, I was very tired by the evening after a whole day on feet and in tension. An hour was left till my return to the village. Having no strength any more, I sat down on a stump, closed my eyes for some minutes and plunged in thought. Suddenly I shuddered from something sticky on my hand. I stood up. I thought it to be a snake. I have always been afraid of snakes. It was the mother cow. I think that it was trying



to lick me with its tongue (this form of love expression is possible only towards a calf. Villagers know that very well). I am sure, the cow felt that I was afraid, and looked at me so tenderly, that tears gushed from my eyes. I came up to the cow, embraced it and patted it, thus expressing my gratitude for its moving sympathy for my position.

Approximately 50 years has past, but that scene always flashes before my eyes. I deny completely that an animal is an unconscious creature. I think the mother cow was consciously higher than my fellow-villagers who decided to make fun of a child. So we won two rounds being friends with my lovely mother cow.

At last, the adults who wanted to mock at me apologized to my family and excluded me from the list of herdsmen. They divided my turn among themselves. I forgot them; otherwise, I would not be able to get acquainted with the mother cow. Two years later it was run over



by a dump truck when crossing the road and died. That was the first great grief in my life.

So, my attitude to animals was formed through the prism of my relations with the mother cow; of course, not because of its white milk with foam, but its kindness and generosity. Yes, because of its generosity. God will take into account everything!

Tofiq muallim, I have never told anyone this story. I see it has touched your heart as well. Forgive me, for God's sake, if anything is wrong. Sorry, if the story is not very amazing, but I have many recollections about my village. I promise tell something joyful next time.

You always told about your village Isaly and held up Gasym muallim, your kind, farseeing father, as an example, especially when we talked about education.

Gasym muallim always showed a tender care of children's reading and writing. His school was religious at first, as I know. After the 1917 October Revolution in Petrograd, he



transformed it, without tension from above, into a secular school, not forgetting God at the same time. You used to say that *“we owe our education to Gasym muallim. He was the man of a wide range of knowledge. He taught several subjects simultaneously. There was a lack of teachers in the village. He did appreciate knowledge! He put it above everything, saying that knowledge is the foundation of everything; learn, my children, until you have a chance”*.

Nowadays, nearly everybody knows the “price” of knowledge, from a student to a minister. They simply cannot define some criteria by which their real “cost” is determined. The word “price” has its material significance as it should do. Everything in the end comes to one thing: if knowledge is valuable, it must be of the highest status. *You are smiling. You are trying to guess where I am turning our conversation by my hints. Just believe me, the only reason of these hints is a shame that has seized me. We should not inform “the Man Upstairs” about such serious earthly vic-*



vices. Decisions of that place may cost us much. God's anger is stronger than any sword.

I do not like to lose our good spirits. Sometimes it is better not to speak. You know that wise ancestors said the ability of keeping silent is one of the best human features. When delicate matters are concerned, such as the level of knowledge and state of education which are, in fact, define the future of the country and nation as a whole, one should not make an error. It is better to keep silent without belittling someone's and your own dignity than to speak actively, without a pause, repeating one and the same phrase like "practice makes perfect". By the way, it helps much in a circus where practice helps a goat to jump over the head or to waltz on hindlegs. In this case, practice touches upon something tasty and necessary for the stomach of the trained animal. Without it the unconscious creature would never dance in front of the public. This is the very case when an attachment is more valuable than the origi-



nal, i.e. the education cost is higher than the result, though the spectator pays for joy and amusement. In the case of education, everything is quite different. The final result does not return the expenses. The purchased diploma is there, while knowledge is not.

As to well-known cases of practice in society, they often work in a quite contrary way adding everything negative to people's consciousness. There are people who refuse to accept the negative and to keep it in their consciousness for a long time; however, one does not want to come across with such a terrible feeling consciously every day. Some people believe that practice helps much to confirm a word in human consciousness. Perhaps, it is so. I am not going to judge them. All we are people and to err is human; we can err, trust too much, get upset, betray, offend and humble someone. No one can feel secured against such deeds, at least because we do not know ourselves enough and cannot know about the variants of our



deeds at the level of consciousness. This can be displayed in extreme conditions. You know that any war claims many human lives; at the same time it is the very war that generates many heroes. Sometimes, a very quiet, inconspicuous man at first sight can make a deed, show heroism, self-forgetfully love his Motherland, and sacrifice his life for the sake of his friends. I think stimulants of all this are in human subconsciousness namely. It is in our genes.

Imagine, in different times an Azerbaijani who was born in Great Britain will act only as an Azerbaijani, not as an Englishman, German, Frenchman or somebody else, since he/she supposes to be among his /her natives – among Azerbaijanis. This is genetics on the subconscious level!

By this apparently latent, hidden feature one nation differs from another. Every nation has an opportunity typical of it only to react to various difficult situations in its own way. Therefore, dear Tofig muallim, we have a great ability of forgiving, par-



ticipation, assistance to others in good deeds in our genes as I can assume. If you can forgive someone, it means you have not lost your ability of living further, of arranging your life taking into account your life experience, facts and events that past no matter how undesirable, incompatible to our intentions they are.

That's why I do not approve appealing to heavens in such cases. Life arranges everything and everyone, gives every human being what he/she deserves.

I see my philosophizing has interested you. We have never talked about high matter. I must not miss my opportunity to speak out, to familiarize you with my vision of what is going on. This can be once in your life if you are lucky of course.

Just believe me, Tofiq muallim, it is not easy to talk to someone about subtle matter. Our relatives, friends have already read a part of what I have written. Some of them shed a few tears and were under the impression for a long time. Others say my story is emotionally good and does not leave anyone indif-



*ferent. Everybody finds it interesting to talk to a person like you. Our conversation covers various opinions, different events, though sometimes contrary and contradictory. I believe everybody must be interested in life-related aspects. However, there is **but...***

Some people say my story is read easily; one cannot stop reading, and has a desire to read it till the end at one go. However, easy reading is not compatible with instant comprehension and understanding of what has been read. It makes a human being meditate, mark out some phrases, sometimes it diverts him from realities of life, etc.. Perhaps, some people do not like that it is not soup or porridge that you can swallow without chewing. There is another sort of food, shish kebab, for example. It is not easy to swallow it, one should make efforts. In our case, roughly speaking, approximately the same is taking place: instead of the stomach that needs food several times a day, comes in the forefront the mind that can exist



without corporal food for a long time, even longer than one can imagine.

Yes, unfortunately our folk have grown so lazy that refuse thinking a little. Of course, it takes some efforts, and they probably did not expect that. You and I know that we might correctly ask readers, especially people close to us, to go back as far as 10 or 15 years when all people would read, think and understand, and there was an inner need of that; people had certain invisible hunger, longing for books. Everything was boiling, there were long queues for subscription publications.

Nowadays, hunger deals with a stomach, digestion and problems how and by which means (thanks God, there is everything available) to get anything satisfying physiological hunger. Mental and hearty needs are sidelined now. The presence of two kinds of hunger creates some problems and discomfort, though we have not complained of that. In some cases mind and heart prevailed over the stomach.



You see what we have come to! It is less to read, it is necessary to think. The latter is a more difficult work. However, it won't do to lose one's heart, to accept it.

You seem to be confused. You have got upset on hearing about gradual disappearance of mental and hearty hunger. I perfectly understand you. At the same time a glitter in your eyes suggests me that you and I are on the right path. There is no way back!

Time will come soon when people start thinking not only about daily bread. There is enough time for that, it is just necessary to overcome laziness, psychological deadlock, mental and spiritual stupor, and to take an active life position in a family, in a circle of friends, at work, etc.. Otherwise, the deadlock will lead to despair, a deaf wall of incomprehension, and a human being will stay in that twilight state of mind and heart till the end of his life, and will feel "happy" because there will be nothing required to be done.



Now you have cheered up. I know you are acquainted with everything I am saying; you just cannot share your precious advices with others. I can be your mediator, and you can rely on me; I will try not to fail you. You know it goes against our principles.

P.S. My position is unchangeable: evil must be punished. If someone does evil, it is incited by the Devil. Therefore, we help the Devil when we do not punish evil. Evil must be punished, while good must be measured out in strict doses. If it is not so, good can generate evil. This turning point of events must not be excluded. I am deeply sure that any deed, evil or good, should be commensurable with consequences of its performance. While performing a certain deed, a human being must try to look into the future at the same time in order to understand the effect of his/her deed, its positive results.

Indiscriminate dispensation of good, no matter material or spiritual, does not mean



human generosity, but rather his/her careless attitude to good which is spiritual and material wealth. It needs care and attention.

One can and must forgive deeds done without malicious intent. One can forgive some faults, however great they are. However, there are sins which cannot be atoned. Evil is one of them. One should not stimulate it as well. This is just my view. As to my father, he has his own ways and methods of fighting evil up to now.





EVIL AND MONEY. "THE BARE TRUTH"

**Truth has a cover.
To take it off means
to bare truth.**

Evil is bad. Everybody knows that. Money is good and necessary. *Can anyone compare them? Money is material, while evil is a virtual substance in a constant motion that changes human mood mainly to the worst.* It is related to human inner world somehow. That is it, Tofiq muallim. Of course, I have stated that with a sense of humour not to make you gone on hearing "the bare truth". Do you know why people use this word combination? They might say simply "truth" and that's all, everything is clear. It means that, sometimes that what seems to us to be a truth has, say, clothes, a cover and a number of shortcomings that may escape our attention, while, when bared, truth becomes obvi-



ous. There is nothing left to conceal. Therefore, there are even such phrases like *probable truth*, *bare, bitter truth*, *absolute truth*, and at last, *the absolute* itself which nobody has ever seen.

How better it has come to my mind. *You seem to be trying to smile. Do not torment yourself by thoughts about earthly creatures' fate.* At the beginning of our talk we said that one should not cry for everyone. The eyes could become blind. We have too many good and bad things to look at and to see. One should not rely on the beauty only. You repeatedly said that "there are a lot of different things in the world. There are those who must write, think, speak, stamp their feet, clap their hands and even look blank. We are a vivid family of many faces". You meant the world in general then as a whole family which, of course, consists of billions of vivid families but of a smaller size. Our diversity is the presence of everything, including, money, evil and, of course, truth in its different manifestations.



THE MIRROR REFLECTS AND HIDES SOMETHING

**The talent reflects
the invisible...**

A human being can see his reflection in a mirror, even standing up straight. However, this is just a reflection of appearance, though he must shine from within. It can be presented as transparent water, white snow, bright as the sun. Transparent glass has a quality to reflect everything that is in it from all sides. The mirror is made of glass in order a human being can see his reflection. However, it only reflects one side of the man, the external one, which can be enlarged and turned in various angles if necessary and possible. The man sees himself as he looks like or wants to, and he can very often change what is wrong.

When turned into a mirror, ordinary glass loses its natural quality, since it cannot reflect



human spirituality, the inner world; it loses the ability to look inside. Nonetheless, human spirituality can be reflected on human face, in his voice, deeds, replacing the glass for a while.

You were such by essence, i.e. an individual reflecting your time, history. Therefore, internally lucid people are usually compared to glass. You look like clear, transparent glass. You did not hide from us what we had to see. You had your own goals in your heart when let your relatives trace your life. I know it by my own experience. Every person wants one of the relatives to continue his/her business, to complete unfinished scientific researches. We would remain then not only in their memories, but also in deeds. Scientific heritage is usually passed so, however...

You and I have failed to make our children follow our path. Each of them has found his/her own way. Relay race has failed, though I cannot say whether it is good or bad. Sometimes our children do not even read what we have written. Other people



are delighted and envy that they have such parents like we. Unfortunately, conversations with your and my children showed me that they understood your scientific greatness only after you passed away. That's it, and there is nothing you can do.

Those who envied your talent of a scientist and social and political figure were people of negative emotions per se. Actually, they, perhaps, could not comprehend the power of your mind and the depth of your knowledge. I think a man that has reached the same depth will never be envious, all the more, will never do harm to your talent that supposedly offended them. Fortunately, there were few bearers of negative emotions surrounding you. God-given talent never fades. It is always at the climax shining a light of science on some people and blinding other people's eyes. The latter still live not enlightened. Enlightenment is the most effective means against evil and envy. Those who cannot have a chance to be enlightened are not responsible; they remain on the curb of science



like spiritually marginal persons; history does not recognize them, and by time they find their place there where there are enough of the like. Therefore, it is far from right to feel hurt because of them. The history of the USSR forming as a great power brought great people into the foreground, such as I.V. Stalin. Not only collaborators, but also international luminaries in politics envied him.

Unlike many leaders of the USSR who were torn from people and did not know what they wanted and what to offer them as moral and material food, I. Stalin knew what the nation wanted and gave it to it: order, law and mercilessness to those who robbed national wealth, could do harm, even little and unconsciously, not knowing the essence of the then power.

Others gave the nation what they thought it to be necessary; they thought there were neither moral nor material stimulus that could favour the order maintenance and observance of



laws of the country. The majority of them gradually got bogged down in corruption, bribery and mercantilism. All that took place unfortunately. There were no serious obstacles on the way of spreading these vices among leaders, from the lowest to the highest. Only few leaders managed to escape the psychosis of money-grabbing and arrogance towards the people and the government.

Tofiq muallim, I will tell you an interesting fact from the history of modern Russia. According to the survey of the Russian population, I.V. Stalin was given third place by the Russians as "The Name of Russia". This case made historians and political scientists revise their relation to the past, notice a great deal of positivity in it. I would mark out three more USSR leaders – Alexey Kosyghin, Heydar Aliyev and Andrey Gromyko. A. Kosyghin and A. Gromyko were governmental till the end of their life. H. Aliyev had one more very important feature: he was creative by nature. He was



able to make important decisions and realize himself in actions. Such people's names and deeds remain for centuries.





THOUGHTS ABOUT TRUTH AND EARTHLY BEING

**The truth of existence is
the Creator's mystery.**

A human being must be in peace, at least, with himself. One should search for truth in his/herself. I believe that one should start with the heart, an initial instance, when intends to look for truth, since it arises, forms and, perhaps, dies there. You liked to talk about that too, Tofiq muallim, to be understood, at least, by people close to you. Therefore, you repeated that a human being should control his emotions, keep his spiritual balance without a bit of anger, malice and envy. One who has truth in his heart cannot sleep with spite in his heart.

No one can explain the meaning of the night prayer. It seems to be invented to clear one's heart before going to bed, to stay alone with Creator and to



be away from earthly affairs. One whose belief is true will find peace of mind!

Clear conscience is said to be the best remedy for quiet pious sleep. I think it is truth. How can the conscience of one who is guilty of hundreds, thousands of people's death be clear? This is a vicious circle. I would say rather a strong circle. Some dictate, others kill, still others deprive of water and daily bread, while the rest quietly watch all that. The world would become better perhaps if to let all this through one's heart and to try to load these people's conscience. Sound sleep would not be a deficiency then. I wonder whether it helps.

History shows that those who are in shade live long. Bright light can illuminate all dark corners and everyone will see what has been hidden from others. Naturally, single persons are destined to become lucid. Would it be right to subject to illumination all the corners because of some people? We are all different; there are no persons alike in the world. That is, I think,



the principal secret of the Creator. Therefore, the most enlightened reason often disturbs others, so most people have to be in shade. Everyone chooses his/her home to live. This is our sacred duty. Any feeling we have is an inner state of every individual as a member of world association of peoples. It is individual by nature and has the status of inviolability.

I see you do not like my long excursus to “nowhere”. I understand you, though, on the other hand, if we always knew where we go, we would not have strange changes which our time is full of. The way to “nowhere” is interesting with its surprises, that is why, most people choose it – some people consciously, others without any reason. That is like a game of raffle.

I think that a very interesting question come to you, *what is my attitude to all this – philosophical or practical?* I will try to make you understand my attitude to this. Truly, I have no exact and direct answer. Times are difficult. You know, everything in the world is changing



so rapidly that you fail to follow all modifications. I have changed my views both on the world in general and realities in particular. I can tell one thing: my relation to that is philosophical. Do not worry, there is no scepticism or, God forbid, pessimism. This is better I think. *More specifically?* Well, I would not like to weary you. If you let me, I would like to make a short excursus also. Perhaps, you will find the answer to your question then. I hope you understand me. Great range of your disposition allows doing that without efforts. You always understood me, so did I.

God is very generous to us who live in Azerbaijan land. We have been honored with a great welfare – to have wealth and many clever, talented people on our land, a small piece of the planet. If He does not create idiots, some of men of sense would play their roles. Then it would be unfair, and even uninteresting to live and to create. Great art is designed for men of sense and understanding. Other people do not



understand anything. History does not pay attention to them. Let us remember “great” idiots. I cannot remember anyone of the like. Neither do you, I think. People you worked with are not considered to be such. Otherwise, it is not worth a brass farthing to spend time on them. Anyway, one should live and leave this world with pleasant recollections, positive emotions. This is the destiny of men of sense. I consider you to be one of them. Life is unthinkable good to waste it on trifles. Of course, a trifle is a trifle, though in the end it can be a serious obstacle on the way to the good, to the cherished. So one should pass any trifle by.

A human being has been created both to love, experience pleasure and happiness, and to suffer, grieve, feel pain of loss, treachery and betrayal. No living being in the world is able to bear the totality of human sufferings, except him. He is *Homo sapiens*! There is no limit to his sufferings that may end only with his death. Naturally, we do not know why it is so. Is our



consciousness that God gave us the reason of exorbitant endurance and patience of human organism? If so, one can suppose that the very consciousness is able to think and implement all atrocities and to inflict inhuman pain on someone of the like.

Tofig muallim can ask me: *Where is the border in the brains separating these quite opposite decisions, dear Rafeq?* Yes, no one has found it yet, even great thinkers of the past failed to do that. Having acquainted with the present situation, one can arrive at a conclusion that it is like a contest to define who is more endurable or who is able to inflict more pain and sufferings. I wonder why did God create a human being, the most merciless creature in the world which is the only living being able to kill the like?





THE CONTINUATION OF THE SHORT EXCURSUS

**A small piece is a part of
the whole, i.e of our being**

I liked poetry in my youth. I would know whole poems by heart, but in the fuss of an adult's life this passion gradually abandoned me. Now I seldom read poems. However, recently, I came across with a book of poems where I read such lines:

*I thank you for you in
my beautiful dreams,
For your reflections in my eyes,
I thank God Who created you like that.
Perhaps, He thought about me then.
I thank God for joys and pain!*

Can anyone thank anyone else, let it be the Creator himself, for pain and sufferings? We



understand the essence of the happening perfunctorily.

I think the main reason why a human being goes astray is he confuses love and feelings. There are other notions too. Blind feelings, deprived of light of mind and warmth of heart leave only disappointment and chaos.

You know that as well. You had such rich experience of life that you could hide your vision of what happened from your relatives sometimes. You did not want to perplex them or you were afraid of being misunderstood. Maximalism prevented you from taking a middle position. I am a maximalist as well – either everything or nothing. In this case, the latter, i.e. “nothing” wins. And with “nothing”, you fail to do good and useful for your nearest and dearest. Most people choose the middle to be understood by everyone, at the same time reserving their own opinions. This is not hypocrisy at all. This happens due to understanding



of what is going on which is inaccessible to many contemporaries.

There is one more important detail related to that. History shows that great people are not understood by their contemporaries. They are valued and honoured some centuries and generations after. Thus, we read and understand with great pleasure the poems of Mirza Alekber Sabir, feeling his presence among us. Though in his times, he was persecuted for the truth. One should be very careful with the notion of truth. You said that *relation to it defines the place of a human being in society*. Only people deprived of spirituality and intellect do not have any relation to this notion. You and me are not such. That's why the credo of our being is to know the essence of this notion and to share it with others who can understand us correctly. I agree with you that all this defines our behaviour in society. You cannot go down to the level of the mass of which you cannot rise up to yours. Remember all well-known enlighteners, from an-



cient times to our dates. They never managed to open their contemporaries' eyes to many things. Enlightenment is a God-given gift. It is not given to all. It is a thankless work to transfer to contemporaries what has not been given to them by God. Therefore, one should guide them or entertain with different ideas, from religious ones to modern pseudoideologies. A human being needs what his/her mind is able to comprehend, what he/she will take with understanding and gratefulness. The rest things mean time wasting, an illusion, castles in the air of enlighteners of all times and peoples. I am not saying they did something bad or blameworthy. I mean that they were misunderstood. Those who did not understand them are not to blame, because their level of development prevented them from perception of the given enlightenment material. This is the destiny of the elite, and the door there, as we suppose with you, is closed for most people.



THE TEMPLE OF SCIENCE

**The temple of science serves a
human being, while a religious temple
helps the human being to serve God**

Well, what is going on in our Academy? I have been waiting for this question. I thought it would be one of the first asked, but you are very patient as always. The question is very complicated, so is the answer to it. You and I have been members of this large family of intellectuals among whom are worldwide popular talented men of science. Academy is a temple of science, a place of enlightenment of hundreds of minds, who were born and grown on the blessed soil of Azerbaijan. The temple still inspires confidence and attracts by the fragrance of scientific knowledge. Do not laugh! Like any other substance, knowledge has strength, light and the most pleasant fragrance. That's why everything



that took place and still does within the walls of the mighty building is worth of attention and respect.

With time, one penetrates into the essence of things and values what he/she has, what makes him/her happy, calm, and even sad and painful. I am sure there is a special, unknown meaning in all this. One can feel relieved because of understanding that. At least, when think so, I calm down, get irritated less and feel pacification in my heart. This is my personal opinion about the temple of Academy. People do not study there, we may say. They do it at institutes of higher education. Here starts the stage of perfection of each of us as soon as we come into contact with science. Science is a totality of our knowledge. It includes a piece of each of us. That's why it is so majestic, ready to accept everyone who has left the beaten track and is looking for his/her own way. It accepts those who gave up the mass, banal approach in order to find their paths. Of course, we are talking about those who cross the threshold of the



Academy with good intentions. This is the most wonderful temple in the world. It gives everything that has generously, asking nothing in return – neither prayer, nor gifts, nor anything else.

It is not occasional that I have compared it to religious temples, holy places in the aura of which, according to the history of religion, is the Spirit of God Himself. Here happens something important, i.e. God-given mind finds its lucid moment, while talent finds its application. Figuratively, achievements of science are open to all people without any conditions. The temple is open to everyone who has a spark of science and is ready to serve it. Look intently at the faces of men grown wise with scientific knowledge. Some warmth, certain light, positive emotions come from them. I have the kindest attitude to this wonderful temple; my best recollections are connected to it, to people who have had a chance to be there and who made their contribution to our native science.



I know you had special attitude to the Academy as well. Once you said that *"men of science are children of the Academy. It shapes human consciousness, mollifies the soul, abates sufferings and pain and gives hope"*. Yes, it is like a high mountain. When the first step is taken, a man obsessed by a scientific idea cannot stop. Every time when he reaches a height and sees the next one, he is unable to end ascend.

The temple of science has a status of eternity. All people needed science, even those who threw scientists into inquisition bonfires. Our temple must stand till the end.





THE NIGHT PRAYER

**If one prays, belief
has not been lost**

We would listen to your speeches at family fetes dedicated to many occasions. You used to say that *one should avoid extremes, find an approach to relatives, a right answer to his/her questions which are a lot*. To find what we are looking for, a human being should live, first of all, in harmony with him/herself. It is useless to find the truth somewhere else. It is inside a human being. The heart is said to be the first and the last station of the train of happiness. It generates, forms and ends there. We have already talked about that, but the matter is very important, so repeat is appropriate here. In order to have happiness in your heart for a long time, you should manage your emotions, keeping the inside balance. If there is happiness in the heart, there is no room for anger, envy. They are un-



covered enemies of human happiness. Therefore, men of wisdom say that one should not go to bed with ire in the heart.

To avoid that, all religions give a good piece of advice. It is not occasional that before going to bed one should pray. We have touched upon this earlier. I am sure that most people do not know the purpose of the night prayer. I have asked many people, including men of religion, though they did not give me clear answer to my question. I suppose that during the prayer true believers stay tête-a-tête with God, or with an object of worshipping. The followers of system religions, as well as pagans and idolaters, free themselves from negative emotions that they got during a day by means of meditation. Their hearts become full of love to God or to their idol. Naturally, in the place full of true love, there is no anger. You see, how ancestors invented night prayers that are an address to the Creator in order to clear themselves from sins and anger. Some men grown wise with life



experience say that clear conscience is the best remedy from insomnia. I think they are close to truth. With anger and spite in heart, one finds it difficult to tame his/her not always quiet conscience. It does not obey him/her, and, irrespective of man himself, reacts to man-made circumstances. To keep its space cleaned is a troublesome job, but it is worthy of that.





TRUTH IN WORDS... LIFE IN A "PIPE"

**The life of the Universe
should not be restricted within
a narrow space of your own mind**

According to your reaction, I understand that you think me confusing some notions. I do not dispute that. I believe we have lived too long in captivity of different notions. They regulated our everyday actions, for example, materialism, atheism, liberalism (instead of free choice), etc. Karl Marx supposedly denied the role of the spiritual and related everything to the material. Thank to this misunderstood relation to the matter, people were divided into two categories – materialists and idealists. By the way, some words about the matter. The majority of people say you were a materialist, since they thought and still think that K. Marx's followers related everything to the matter, forgetting about the



Holy Spirit. How naïve they are. Did K. Marx place the material above the spiritual? What was the first in socialism, the matter or spirituality? Spirituality was! It was always the first, wasn't? In capitalism, money takes the first place, i.e. the matter is principal. There is no spirituality at all. The capital, i.e. the matter, closes everybody's eyes and ears – people do not only stand on their knees before the golden calf, but also are ready to creep on all fours. Having derived from material benefit, people lose their heads and spirituality forgetting about God. Therefore, do not worry, for you, spirituality was always principal. I am not saying that you denied the material at all. It is needed as well. It is impossible to do without the matter. Every single person needs it to save life and to provide spirituality. You have nothing to worry about. You had both the material and the spiritual. There was a reliable and strong balance. Most people envied that you attached little importance to the material. Great



people are pleased with the little. Let's remember an aphorism by Bias of Priene, an ancient Greek philosopher, cited by Cicero: "Omnia mea mecum porto" (All that is mine I carry with me). This indicates their greatness, as they have surpassed all that is material. There was no filth around them. That's why it is difficult not to notice them!

Do not think that I am speaking so much hoping that you will forget to ask me your next question. No, I respect you too much! So I cannot leave the delicate *question about television* without an answer. **I do not want to talk about it. If you had not asked, I would have passed by the question.** This is the most important and weakest point in our society. Our TV has been provided with modern technologies. We have new well-equipped studios, a lot of professional TV reporters, producers, operators. TV teaches history, geography to people. Our national mugam has been restored and caresses our ears. In a word, there is progress. There is a



competition as guarantee of development and success. A whole generation of young skilled TV leaders has grown. One can get scientific knowledge, get acquainted with history and culture of other countries and peoples. I prefer Lider TV and Public TV channels. On AzTV, I only watch news. Naturally, some subjects deserve criticism. Despite achievements, the human factor is the most important on TV, which is catastrophically needed. There are a lot of show men, political scholars, more than it is necessary to our society covered with wounds. The level of most of programs of the kind is zero. Though, to all appearances, they, i.e. some organizers and participants of various show programs, have passed through fire and water, how the Russians say through "a copper pipe". Everything has started here. No one can explain what has happened in that long and dark pipe. Everything is normal at the entrance, while everything cardinally changes at the exit. I do not mean the appearance, though it is important



too. You will not believe but for a short period of time those who have been in the dirty and dark “pipe” have had their character, way of thinking and, excuse me for God’s sake, sexual orientation has changed, what has affected some of our citizens too. This is one layer that appears indistinctly before one’s eyes. God knows how many invisible layers there are that are unpleasant for Him. In this regard, we are first among our neighbouring countries. It would be better if those who are in the “pipe” attended courses at a conservatory. It is better than any pipe, even a golden one. After being inside the accursed “pipe”, the human structure itself changes. It is like a second birth. No mother is capable to give birth to morally ugly children. Whatever it is, it is “pipe” to blame. Nowadays, Russia, Ukraine and all EU countries are practicing the same. They wish to see one and the same thing at the entrance and the exit. But it continues to be a wish. What will come in the end is unknown. I mean a pro-



longed gas conflict. The last product that we have at the exit from the “pipe” is very disgusting. They believe that one part of those who enter the “pipe” stay inside it.

You cannot imagine who delivers lectures to people on firm family relations, theory of music, behaviour of society members, in general, on the matter, not knowing at the same time that words and actions should be consonant with each other if one wants people to believe him/her. Here is the opposite. Just imagine a woman or a man (*now, men like women can be sexual partners to one another*) speaking about how wonderful it is to be chaste, devoted to family, be faithful, not betray one another, while publicly they act in a contrary way. It would be better if they only sing. They have not a bad voice, and each of them has fans. However, a good voice does not imply the right to teach others.

I have to notice one more interesting moment. For this time our children have learned to



understand and speak Turkish. The absence of films in the Azerbaijani language is made up for with Turkish movies. The majority of them are similar to Mexican movies in which reigns beautifully shown sexual chaos. You watch a film, but you cannot understand who does what and with whom. Turkish movies are full of pain and sufferings, tears and grief. Happy ends are rare. You know our people are very emotional, especially women. They sit in front of the TV set with a handkerchief in their hands. Some of them change the handkerchiefs twice; one handkerchief cannot endure the flood of tears. In movies our sisters and brothers are beaten, hanged. There is pain, anger, grief and wealth, treachery and betrayal, moral chaos on the screen. A trustful spectator takes it too close to his/her heart. He/she scarcely comes out of two-hour-long stress when another, no less deplorable film starts. It makes an impression as if someone wants to keep our wives and children in stress, so that when they see the



husband or father alive in the evening they will thank God that nothing has happened to them, unlike heroes of films.





FAMILY SECRETS

**As our ancestors said,
"When three know
it, all knows it"**

I think our talks have dragged on, it is about six o'clock in the morning. Lizetta, as you liked to call my wife Nushaba, is sleeping. She has no idea that we have been talking to you about five hours. We never stayed in private so long. Have I not wearied you? You do not be bored there. Soon, we all will move there, and then our talks will be endless and no relative will bear us a grudge that you spend so much time on me. You liked making surprises. Let it be our common surprise for Nushaba and for all who will happen to read our cosmic conversation.

Not everybody can leave this world and stay here at the same time. Thank God, you did manage to. You deserve heavenly happiness.



Thank you, Tofiq muallim, for your attention and patience to listen to. Come time after time, when you are bored with heavenly welfare, but do not form a habit. Enjoy what you have now. We do not have that chance yet, everyone is waiting for his/her moment. It has been and will be so! You understand now what the eternity is. You can see the difference between the eternity of heavenly happiness and seeming eternity of earthly sufferings. It is incompatible!

You like heart-to-heart talk. We both seem to like it. We have one flash, but different souls which are not equal yet – you are there while I am on the sinful Earth. There is appropriateness; if we were not in different places, I would not have written about this talk. Believe that everything is for the better. You helped me and made me courageous to discharge my duty before your blessed memory and our relatives. Thank you for this! Take your deserved place in the heaven. You deserved it more than anyone who is still here.



I have told you everything, nearly everything, because it is impossible to unburden heart, as it should not be empty. You would not like my heart to be empty at all. *You are nodding your approval!*

Well, one more minute, please. Now you understand that happiness that we all are looking for is there, in a place where you are. There are only problems and a bit of that happiness on the Earth. When young, people think that happiness is in future, while when grown older, they turn back to look in the hope of missed happiness. Then comes bitter disappointment, but it is too late. They say that full happiness is not good either, due to it some souls want to return to the Earth and to move into someone's body. Please, do not do that because, first of all, there will be no one to talk to, second, you are a unique creation of God. Who knows whose body that would be if your soul moved as a result of incarnation; it would have to fight for freedom for about sixty or seventy years. Do



not change your freedom to anything. I told you that once and I am repeating. For the time of your absence, the world has become worst and loathsome. So, wait for us there; there are your brothers next to you – Firudin Kocharly, Magsud Kocharly, Musa muallim and all who left for eternity. *You are not bored, are you? You are nodding your approval again, that's good. Enjoy your heavenly happiness! We will have to fight for freedom from earthly problems so far, which are more and more day after day.*





I AM NOT A GENIUS, AND THE EARTH IS NOT SINFUL

**The sanctity of human
is connected with earth's sanctity**

One of our relatives, on behalf of several persons who have read the book, paid a serious compliment to me by saying that *"You, Rafiq, has written a good thing. It is super. Well done. We are proud of you"*. I do not know whether I did right or not, but replied the following (he was very pleased with my answer): "Please, let me down to earth that bears all our sins. After your grandiloquent words, one wants to fly and to pick up rose petals. One can disappear if it goes that way. Despite our ingratitude, the earth shelters us, rears us, gives warmth, satiates our lungs with oxygen and will accept us at the end as the closest one and will let a man merge with it into a whole. The land we live in is sacred, without any exaggeration. We are homeless or-



phans without it. It has made us a nation, we have built our sovereign state on it; in its bowels it contains material wealth that is enough for us and for many generations to come. Not to love such a land, not to be proud of it, not to protect it means to stop being a nation, an established nation, to announce your failure to have a name related to the name of this land – an Azerbaijani. One should take care of such honour, as of own heart, soul and mind. Earth plus the three tangible and virtual substances define our place and role in this world. Can anyone of us neglect these interconnected values? The answer is clear - there is no need to sound it. They should be inside each of us; they form a nucleus, a core of our human structure, the essence of our life and earthly being.

How generous, patient our Earth is! What a level of dignity it has! But we, ungrateful creatures, mar the sacred earth by all possible means. How does it stand us? I think it is the most patient of all that God created. Sometimes



they say that there is a sacred land somewhere, in Jerusalem, for example. I think the world in general is a sacred God-given gift. It should be taken that way!"

This was my long answer. I hope that genius is a peak out-of-reach of ordinary people. We'd better keep our land cleaned by our respectful attitude to it. When nature does not suffer, interesting thoughts come to our mind and we state them on the paper...





AGAIN TO THE READER

Dear reader! You know that the only aim of presenting the book you have been reading is to do my duty of a Man with upper case before others, to share my life experience and to be useful to someone. Therefore, besides the above written, I have taken the liberty of sharing my vision of this world. I think each of us can do that. For these reasons, I started reflecting upon some important moments of our life aloud. For want of a better variant, I called them *advices*. I realize that one who has a moral right can give pieces of advice. It is not easy to get such a right. I rely upon your indulgence, patience and hope you will not be too strict and critical to them. Do judge after you have read the book till the end. Try to understand my intentions. *I only wish good to each of you.* Otherwise, it would be senseless to write anything at all. Advices are



like things laying on the table that can be taken or passed by.

I have said about these pieces of advice to Tofig muallim, my cosmic interlocutor, as well.





ADVICE NO.1:

GOOD DAY, MAN!

Life on earth is full of mysteries that many generations have tried to unravel. Something has become obvious; something is still a sealed mystery. There are a lot of beautiful, marvelous things worthy of attention and adoration. Every person carries out his/her mission on earth in his own way. However, one thing unites us: in fact, we cannot show bad reaction to a sincere smile emitting energy of life. All we, irrespective of our state of body and mind, forget everything for a while, as positive waves lap in front of us, and we have no power to reject them.

For that purpose, try to get rid of negative emotions. Anger and malice should not find a refuge in your heart. They are your enemies. Try to smile. A smile can generate a sense of joy in your heart and in that of others who sur-



round you. A strong positive aura arises around you in that case. The rays of good, love to life and to others that you will emit then can put your friends and relatives in good spirits. One who will enter your aura can join your company. Thus a big ball of intertwined aura systems resembling Olympic rings can be formed. Inside this ball full of good and joy, a human being is overfilled with a sense of weightlessness that sportsmen and skydivers experience. It is said to be a great feeling. So, you can create such a blissful state while sitting at your work table. You just need a smile, good aura, and a heart without anger and spite in it. Most people are able to do that. Be one of them, and you will change to the best and your self-esteem will get high! Everybody needs your smile, both those who you communicate with and who have to meet you. You can get more warmth and joy if you share it. It is not occasionally said that shared joy is double joy. When a human being shares his/her grief, it



grows less. Our ancestors taught us that, and this wisdom still works.

My dear readers! This piece of advice is directed to you, your friends and families. Tofiq muallim agrees on that too. You may accept it or not. Its aim is to present you our vision of quality and affect of a smile upon people's mood that surround you. Therefore, we would like to introduce you some tested principles. You may have your own opinion about them that differs from ours. It is quite normal. You may follow one of them, since there is always a freedom of choice.

Aura, as we understand it, is energy connecting us with others. It may have both positive and negative effects. Sometimes it is divided into white and black aura. Anyway, it exists. In our opinion, a human being can create the nature and contents of this energy. So, it means that much depends on us, including the quality of our smile. Saying "Good day!" with a



smile, you give another man a chance of good spirits during a day. Never stint good, please.





ADVICE NO.2:

**A COSMIC MARRIAGE OR
IN AN EMBRACE WITH HAPPINESS**

According to decades' experiments of German scientists, nature and environment, for centuries understood by a human being as a whole, have or had once an independent substantivized existence. Incompatibility prevented nature from promoting appearance of all living beings on earth, including us. As soon as a variant of constituting a whole family appeared, the so-called "first cosmic marriage" with the Universe took place. Therefore, we are children of the assembly of two great substances, nature and environment, rather than of Adam and Eve.

Nature adapts itself to environment. Does it mean that nature is the only living world: plants, human beings, and living creatures in general? Air and all that is in it, are the nature's



partners in life sustenance on the Earth. That's, the earth is a result of compromise of two fundamental substances of life, nature and environment.

No compromises of this kind have been found on other planets, or, as scientists suppose, everything that we see on earth now, existed on them, but several billion years ago. No one can explain what the reason of "the cosmic interplanetary divorce" has been. Science cannot change anything nowadays. Human life is very short to be able to complete researches in this respect. Perhaps, the mystery of the Universe lies here. One thing seems clear to me that the Universe and we are in a constant contact, and the Universe helps us with success. It promotes the development of our "*self*" to the best or the worst. It depends on what emotions human being lives with, whether he/she has a sense of gratitude for that little and much he/she possesses. Human consciousness cannot rely on something more if there is no gratitude.



The main thing is to want and to have a sense of gratitude. One must start with the little, of course. It must be step by step. A human being can never get much at once. Such “progress” has no continuation. It is doomed to a gradual contrary direction. Desires and dreams must have distinguished boundaries. There is no life without them. There are boundaries even between billions of cells of the human body. The intercellular space is a bright evidence of that. Therefore, each of us manages to get just a part of what we desire, and it is enough for life in an embrace with happiness.





ADVICE NO.3:

ACTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS...

Most people agree with the opinion that there are invisible powers that regulate human emotions, manipulate human actions. These powers send us impulses of good, happiness, and sometimes, evil and hatred. At the same time, strange as it is, they define the time of our departure from this life, considering that they have the right in taking a participation in our birth. The main thing is that we are not offended if something is wrong. They seem to be unselfish, having no interests besides one, i.e. to make our world as better as possible. About black impulses it is better not to speak.

It is strange, isn't it? Even different celestial books suggest us and we do it with proud: we do love, adore this invisible substance, and even spend our most precious years, values for it sometimes. According to some religions,



people were and are sacrificed to these supreme substances. They accept them. People are grateful for the acceptance of the sacrifice, i.e. a human being, for taking his life. It is a normal and sacred rite in some countries, in African tribes, for example.

This kind of sacrifice often becomes an obstacle on the way of development of human consciousness. It prevents from changes in human relations, makes impossible bringing the sense of self-sacrifice down to earth, its application in human society and within earthly dimensions in the very people's interests. By their destination, supreme substances that we worship cannot wish us hardship and evil. It is against their principles. They love, protect their subjects from devils and their look-alikes that assume human aspect.

I have read much religious literature and come to a conclusion that the supreme substances please that a human being loves not only by emotions, senses, i.e. in a classical way



that we have got used to. One can love, and maybe, must love by taste, smell and to the touch; that will accelerate the sense of love several times, will create a certain comfort for all human organs. It is impossible to deceive the sense of smell and touch. They do not give way to a quick instant reappraisal.

When wishing good to others becomes an inner need, a part of our energy, as we consists of it, then one can be sure that he/she has got rid of evil spirits within him/her. This kind of blissful state is said to resemble the flight of soul, a sense of weightlessness, fresh air, spring water, fragrance of the best flowers of the world. I understand the position of the supreme substances this way.

Then a logical question arises – do you want all that? Or are there some doubts? You are silent. Then I will turn to heavenly powers again. They would say: yes, of course, you want.

Thus, confess first and start with little. I assure you that in a short period of time you



will feel the difference in the state of mind and body, you will have a longing for the beautiful, you will seek for something good in everything if you like, even feel the soul in a stone. By the way, everything has a core that gives rise to its structure. For example, no person can deny that a tree, a flower, a pebble, water have memory. This is experimentally proved. Where is memory, there is life. It means that life consists of not only memory, nothing of the kind can be found in nature. Every visible and invisible thing has a structure connecting its parts. Have you ever seen two trees grow better and quicker when they are close to each other? They fade when the distance between them increases. They are like people, animals, birds, and insects. Can we say then that they have no soul, no senses? Not everyone will give a negative reply to the question. So, all we live in the world of one need: if we are alive, we need water, air and soil. There are things uniting us irrespective of us. We simply do not see them.



Each of them performs its duty without doing a favour to anyone. Our consciousness is more active, and it can lead a human being everywhere. The difference is, perhaps, the activity of our consciousness distinguishing each individual.





ADVICE NO.4:

ENVOUS PEOPLE DO NOT SMILE...

A human being cannot live a happy life in its right sense with malice and envy in his heart. Evil immerses a human being into the dark of excitements. These unpleasant feelings are incompatible with joy and happiness. They cannot be neighbours inside one man. One can get a peace of mind only having released from them.

Every person creates his inner world independently. According to forefathers' experience, two conditions should be taken into consideration. First, one should not keep good and evil simultaneously in his/her heart. In this case, evil often wins. Second, success will never come if vicious deeds take place. Success is like a two-side coin, a medal. It is necessary to turn into your direction, not by hands like many people are trying to do in vain, but with an in-



ternal state. Success is on friendly terms with good and kind people. Do not say that there are evil rich men who are awful to live with in one society. I agree. However, not every rich man can be considered successful and happy if he has got his wealth unfairly, at the expense of others' misfortune. Success patrons never forgive heartless rich men. Wealth as well as poverty is neither happiness nor a vice. This is a normal human state. Not all can be rich, and not all remain poor. It is a temporary notion. Life often changes everything. One should remember that despite one's wealth, he/she can be in a deep depression, misery. Though it is not good to meddle in others' affairs, make bold to make the close acquaintance with several rich men, if you do not believe me. Every second of them has problems you have never dreamed of.

Naturally, it is stupid to compare poverty and wealth and to prefer poverty. Devotees, monks, and some Sufis or someone else can do



that only. They are convinced that wealth is a vice, and it diverts people from belief in God. Personally, I do not agree with them, but we have no right to reproach them for that. In my view, a human being should not remain poor for a long time. Everyone can open the door of wealth. One should only fit the key. One should deserve the wealth by his/her behavior, mind, heart and hard work, of course. Bring forward your mind and heart. Reveal the potentialities of your mind; clean your heart from evil spirits, including fear of poverty. And success will smile upon you, I hope...





ADVICE NO.5:

PARENTS AND CHILDREN...

**One brings up the one
she has given birth to**

*In this regard, I consulted with Tofig muallim first, and asked him: “Tofig muallim, there are questions that are better not to speak about, such as ancestors’ heritage, traditions, customs, stereotypes, so deeply rooted in people’s consciousness that a slight touch upon them provokes an earthquake equal to the space of intellectual world-view of one nation, i.e. the bearer of the given values. However, a **Word** is the beginning for everything as it is written in holy books. If it were not pronounced in its time, nothing would have appeared, including us. Therefore, I have made bold to share my views on one of our significant traditions, parents and their children, with you. One must speak about things of the kind fairly and frankly, without*



hiding anything. I will be faithful to this eternal principle of searching truth!"

The question related to the younger generation seems to be eternal. It is so indeed. Generation gap has a long history. As far back as our epoch, fathers were not pleased with their children mainly because the latter wished to grow up not according to their principles. Much of their behavior was unpleasant and said to break traditions, though it is a normal and natural course of the development of any society.

I would like to remind you the initial lines of the ancient Egyptian Prisse papyrus kept in the Louvre: "What times have come, children disobey their parents!" This was said several thousand years ago!

Tofiq muallim, this is just a short excursus to the history of the question. The matter is today's state of facts; what the state of facts is in our country and how to change the situation to the best without infringing upon the interests of the participants of



this eternal process in the history of human society development.

I think there is no great difference between the people devoting themselves to invisible substance as an object of adoration, selfless love and self-sacrifice and those dedicating their whole life to children, grandchildren, etc.. The former are inhabitants of cloisters, Sufis or Buddhists who are engrossed in care of cleaning their souls before God or Buddha. In exchange of such self-sacrifice, they expect the Paradise, i.e. to be closer to God; they pursue a definite object, they have their own vision of the result of their exorbitant efforts, hardship, suffering in this life.

The latter are parents, mainly in Eastern countries, especially in ours. They sacrifice their youth, strength and energy to their children. They often confine themselves to less pleasure. They spend their youth and a major part of their lives, even at a mature age and in declining years, on a new generation (we are speak-



ing about physical efforts) and devote their years, love and energy selflessly, without expecting either the Paradise or partial return of spent efforts.

Self-sacrifice of this kind is not compatible according to psychological parameters of course. Monks and dervishes do not think about that initially. They believe that only one being - the Creator - can be an object of selfless love.

Parents admit the unity and parallelism in such a delicate matter as self-sacrifice (of course, the matter is the sacrifice in a figurative sense). In this case they have to divide their love among three objects: God, children and them. This variant would be ideal if it were possible principally. It is far from possible to divide love into three equal parts. Perhaps, that is why history does not mention it. Personally, I have not heard anything about it either. Love is a united whole notion, and to divide it into



three just parts without infringing the interests of one of them is actually impossible.

It means that there is only one real variant when we suppose our children to be the parents' only objects of love and self-sacrifice.

And life is passing this way. Parents venture to take care of their health and senile illnesses only when they are physically unable to do anything for their posterity. Most of them end their lives at geriatric homes, in solitude. At best, they are lonely in their homes, if there is any, sitting and looking at the door in the hope to see those who they dedicated their lives to. They give a start at every phone call and try to talk to their descendants as long as possible. The latter, to all appearances, simply do their regular "duty" and disappear for a week or a month. I am sure that children do that, let them forgive me for the truth, not from deep love and respect to those who brought them up, but mainly according to a certain sense of duty, as they understand it, what is a quite different



thing. Naturally, there are exceptions. However, we do not speak about exceptions that cannot define general approaches. The matter is that such a state of things turns to some unwritten rules with time. I am not going to blame or reproach anyone. Everyone determines the motives of his/her actions on his own. I am just explaining what we have got for today, though most people consider this subject to be purely personal. I do not agree and therefore, I decided to think aloud and to share my approaches to generation gap with you. I am not trying to appreciate children's or grandchildren's actions, or to offer receipts. No, perhaps, I just set hopes that the situation will change and both sides will be pleased with each other, without infringing anybody's rights, even that of parents.

The matter is that there is not reverse equivalent connection between the mother and the child. For a mother, a child is like a part of her heart which she will give her life for without thinking. This thought has suggested me a



well-known parable about Solomon's wisdom who solved two women's argumentation on who the child belonged to. When a sage offered to divide the child into two parts, the true mother said: "Let the child stay with her!"

I have never read in books or seen in movies that a child sacrifices his life for the sake of his mother, father, grandmother or grandfather. This is undeniable true. There are exceptions again, of course. One should accept and understand the situation.

I see at least two reasons having an impact on the actions of both sides. First, when a child is born, the parents observe how he grows up, educates and enters large society. This makes the parents happy and fills their life with a special meaning. Second, while taking care of old people, parents, you see a physiological collapse of their organisms, a gradual departure, limitation of their physical and mental potentialities, including the abilities of speaking, normal functioning of vital organs. As a result,



negative emotions and energy appear and increase, which you want to get rid of irrespective of yourself. This leads inevitably to limiting visits to 'alive ancestors' and care of sick parents. You start considering them a burden for you forgetting that you owe your life namely to them first of all!

This happens because in such a situation a human being acts at a subconscious level, without thinking. He does not take the trouble to get something out of his "box"(consciousness) instead of falling under the influence of what is under it. In other words, at such moments the man does not think over that what is going on is related to his parents; he does not feel the realities of the situation, perspectives of his behaving like this. Intuitively, only duty restrains him from more "decisive" actions that are negative as a matter of fact. He forces himself to assume an air as if it is pleasant to him to take care of his old parents, to fulfill their requests and caprices. At the same time, children start



treating their parents as “self-willed children” and senile persons, though this takes place secretly. Sometimes they raise their voice on them reproaching them and saying “how many times I should repeat one and the same”. Most of you know that well. Some young people contrive to teach life, what to do, to their old and sick parents. They do not think that old people need the little – just to live till the last days, months, or years, if they are fortunate; to live being surrounded by the minimum of love, attention and hearty warmth.

Not all children are such, of course. There are a lot of children taking care of their parents, doing their duty towards the parents till the end. But the following question bothers me: *“Why does the negative take place in the relationship between parents and children?”* I think everybody knows the answer to this question unpleasant in all respects. Few people would like to speak about it aloud. Well, let somebody else say that. It is easier to me. One thing is to think in si-



lence, and another thing is to express your thoughts that may be misunderstood, may do harm to your image or be unpleasant to God.

Self-sacrifice is central in this process. The matter is who can and do sacrifice what. Self-sacrifice is a deed worth of all praises, awards and approval. Well, when should one do a sacrifice? What are the criteria for defining the necessity, or the cost, of this worthy deed?

Besides, there is a centuries-formed tradition, which is only a tradition, not an entity for the whole life. If necessary, one can move to it correction data meeting the requirements of the time we live in. Nowadays, under the influence of different factors, such as communication with counterparts from Europe, America, a considerable part of our younger generation has changed; they adapt to different laws of life, more practical, not demanding sacrifices and leaving much freedom for building their personal life.



Does not this mean that the youth living in another environment and under the influence of different values will not want to be a father or mother soon, then a grandfather or grandmother, proceeding from the very Western standards? I think it will be like this. Nonetheless, no matter what most people say, this is not a loss of our good traditions, since they can be changed, supplemented and improved as well.

I do not think that anyone of you have ever watched a Western grandmother changes diapers (in earlier years there were heaps of diapers and swaddling clothes) to her grandchild or walks with a pram in the park and feed her grandchild at the same time. That is wildness according to their way of thinking. They do not bring up their children till 25 to 30 years old. They free them much earlier, like a sparrow frees its nestling. Having taught it to fly and catch an insect in flight, parents will take care of it for 2 or 3 days, not more. So, the Europeans and Americans, even the residents of



South-East Asia act the same way. We were surprised, even in the Soviet times, when met elderly Europeans and Americans visiting our country. Most people supposed that they have no children or grandchildren. But we have never imagined their mode of life, traditions and customs, relations to human values, first of all, to personal life.

It turned out that there are good western standards as well. They give a chance to generations to come to enjoy their life and to pass their experience at the same time. Unfortunately, in our country this practice has many defects. It turns out that neither we nor our children will have a happy old age, full of meaning, some hope and gratitude of surrounding people. Who needs that?

If this is the case, both we and our children lose. Everything passes on the baton, and today's children will become future's fathers and mothers, then grandfathers and grandmothers.



It means they will pass the same path as we do, without leaving time for themselves.

We would like, and, frankly speaking, this is the aim of my peculiar address to the reader, that all we, parents and children, have a chance both to bring up children and enjoy life being free from many physical obligations before our children and generations to come. No one will be offended in this case. Everyone will get an equal part of life comfort. Otherwise, the so-called happy childhood will only remain an unrealizable dream. In childhood, everybody thinks that happiness waits for them in the future, that it waits for our arrival and will embrace us. We live our time with such naïve dreams and miss happiness, having not felt it in the youth and not come up with it at the old age.

How strange our being is. Who has invented it and united it as a tradition? Most people consider it to be sacred, as sent down from heaven. In fact, everything that a human



being creates can be changed and called into question. This is the reason of appearing different traditions and rites. From time to time, they are changed and supplemented. Have not you ever thought over how to change our funeral traditions to the best? Who of you is pleased with magnificent funeral repast that resembles not less magnificent wedding parties? In what countries welfare of some people and their families (I mean our mullahs) is directly depended on the number of death? This is unacceptable from the Islamic viewpoint as a religion of humanism and peace. To all appearances, this state of affairs is repulsive for Allah Himself too. That's why we will not commit anything anti-traditional if we try to correct our traditions. By the way, most attributes of our traditions have been forgotten and become a property of history or turned into archeological artifacts. Therefore, with a calm heart, we can break century-old peace and well-established traditions for the sake of better life for each of



us, for the youth and the old. All we win then and, who knows, can catch up with happiness at a mature age. I think we will be able then to give a more real estimation to it than in the youth considering it to be the last chance for a happy end, of course, if admit the thought that the end of life can be happy, too. Who knows...?

This is my viewpoint. You can come down on me like a ton of bricks, or like the Russians say, swear me with “what the earth is based on”. However, in fact, it is impossible to do this, because the earth is based on the balance of belief and disbelief, evil and good, light and dark. You will not dare to break this balance. Nevertheless, there is one more serious reason not to do this. I think the people who inherited this kind of punishment seem not to have a clear idea of what the Earth is based on in reality. They probably thought badly about its foundation. You agree with that I think, don’t you? That’s why, it would be better to try to under-



stand, not curse. If you fail, make a conclusion; you may not agree. Let's part, say, in peace.

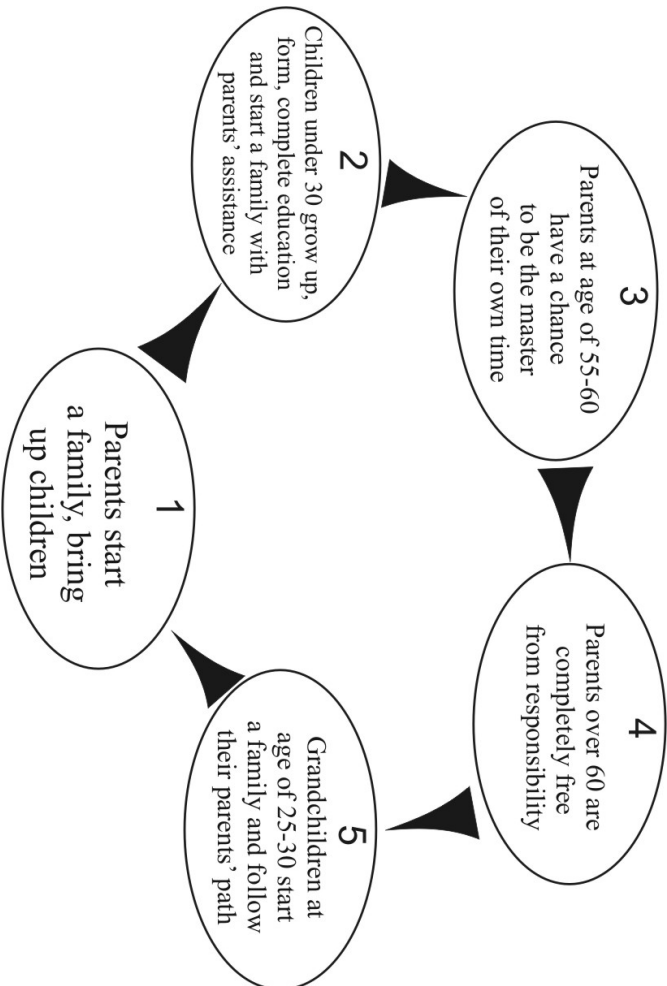
P.S. I have to tell the reader that I have got Tofig muallim's partial approval. Apparently, he did not expect this turning point of our quiet conversation. In fact, such delicate and complicated questions are difficult to solve by talks only. I am grateful to Tofig muallim for patient and attentive listening to my viewpoint. I hope we revert to this matter.

What you have read is my personal opinion, subjective relation to individual parameters of our traditions. Traditions usually replace one another. This has been and will be perhaps in history. The majority of antique and medieval traditions have changed since times of Egyptian pharaohs, Roman emperors, Arabian caliphs, Ottoman sultans, let alone more recent traditions, including European ones. We have also new, 30 to 40-year-old, traditions. That's why there is a certain pad for discussions. Like our ancestors, we live in this ever changing world. All subjects and objects existing in this



Earth transform, assume new forms, dimensions and values.

Some readers will accept my prolonged story related to the problem of “Parents and children” partially or completely, others may reject it, perhaps. To help understand correctly what I have written, it dawned upon me to present such a complicated problem graphically.





What do I mean by the story and its graphical presentation?

1. **Parents:** initial time reference point. Young people get married, start a family, give birth to children and assist them in growing up, education and, in general, in everything, until they start a family. This assistance is material and moral, according to our traditions. Here, parents' power, an initial part of obligations must end (*since responsibility without power and rights resemble certain actions amorphism. Duty before descendants remains, though, in fact, there are no real rights to influence upon children's decisions. Parents become powerless assistants of a new young family, just having a chance to give some pieces of advice that are often disregarded by children*).

2. **Children** under 30: They grow up under the guidance and care of their parents, build their life, family, career taking everything necessary for the foundation of a new family from the parents.



3. **Parents** at age of 55-60: Now they are completely free. Naturally, according to our centuries-old traditions, they are still responsible for assisting and supporting their children if there is extreme necessity. In their turn, children take care of the parents and help to live the remainder of their lives normally.

4. Parents are nearly fully free from obligations before their children. They fight their physical illnesses and, having completed their missions on earth, get ready with clean conscience for the meeting with eternity.

5. **Grandchildren** start a family and follow their parents' path.

Thus, we have returned to the initial reference point. The circle closed up! In other words, children repeat parents' way... This lasts until new generations come... Thus, recurrence does not stop. This order does not put serious obstacles on the way of parents, children and grandchildren. Exceptions, of course, are not taken into consideration. They can appear at different



levels and dictate their requirements, move changes to the above said universal order of existence and development. This must be convenient to all participants of starting and developing a family and family relations.

If one approaches the matter in the way I have suggested, everybody, parents, children and grandchildren, will have a chance to enjoy a joyful, romantic life which is accompanied by a child's birth, growing up and development. This is from generation to generation. At the age of 50 or 60, the parents will be free to be engaged in their own affairs, without burdening themselves with family problems, excessive bring-up of next generation; they will enjoy life and get what they have not been able to do in youth. They have more time and freedom to dispose their intellect. I hope everybody has the right to vivid, active youth and calm, moderate old age. People themselves establish traditions and rules of life for one single purpose, to im-



prove and relieve their own existence. Therefore, they can correct them if necessary.

The above said about the problem “parents-children” is my purely personal view, and the suggested interrelation variant has not appeared from “nothing” and today it is not a child of the brain. It has shaped into an idea ready for use and, as physicians say, can be clinically tested.

I firmly adhere to the formula ‘fantasy-idea-practice-result’. No one can find an idea that has come true and was not a fantasy first. Every idea, every business starts with fantasy.

At present I am son of 85-year-old father, parent of two children who have their families. So, I possess four statuses: *son-father-grandfather-head of family*. Therefore, I am aware of what I call your attention to. Especially as the members of my family are pleased with this order, and they have supported me and my ideas. In this respect, it would be right to notice that other families have also taken into



consideration the ideas. That's why I will venture to say the following: I have written and repeat once more – who likes it, he/she will thank me, who does not like it, he/she will forget everything he/she has read and seen in the book. The reader has the right of choice.





ADVICE NO.6:

FOUR ELEMENTS OF LIFE

Human life on earth and eternal space consists mainly of four constituents full of meaning and sense, such as Soul, Mind, Belief and Love. It is inconceivable to imagine human existence without one of these constituents. He can easily lose his significance as a human being. Being an object, each of them represents a subject too, and they are mutual and make up a unit. Mind controls the behavior of a man who has a soul in which belief and love are settled. This is like one family. The loss of one of them leads to the destruction of all the structure of human existence. Social and behavioral guidelines are lost. The absence of mind leads, roughly speaking, to mental asylum, if one is so lucky of course. The absence of belief exposes one's mind, has a devastating effect on the soul and gradually leads to deformation of vital



elements of vital functions of an individual. The absence of love dooms a human being to sorrowful existence; the absence of soul is the end of being, destruction and death of the body around which the four visible, tangible and virtual elements of human existence assemble together.

However, mind often calls into question the essence of belief and love, controlling them and testing their durability. Sometimes it stops understanding the process of development or creation of belief and love. Everything goes as goes. No matter what developments of uncontrolled existence are, the connection between them is not broken off. This connection is inherent in us by nature.

Naturally, misunderstanding and contradictions between them often lead to disappointment, sufferings and human deprivation of much pleasure of earthly being connected with the world around him. Everybody is familiar with these feelings. Our life seems to be



always on the edge of harmony and disharmony, belief and disbelief, truth and lie, love and hate. We are as if on the both sides of an important instrument that defines the state of things, their weight, called the Scale. It is not occasional that we are often told about the existence of the Paradise and Hell, the scale of justice that defines human destiny proceeding from his deeds in this world. However, aspiration to harmony has always been and is a determinative in human behavior. If this desire is sincere, invisible good creatures of the Universe, possessor of white aura, help human being as well. Not use of their good can bring to imbalance of the four elements of comfortable existence of the man, the best creature of the Creator.





ADVICE NO.7:

THE TRIANGLE OF STABILITY

Dear reader! For 25 years of my activities at the Academy of Sciences and 15 years as an independent researcher I have written much that related to the history of origin and development of religion, philosophy and, of course, moral and ethic values. I am often asked: “*You write much about religion. Do you believe or...?*”

I answer: “*Yes, I do, all we do. But I am not religious*”. The difference between the two notions is that belief, as it has been said, is an internal state of every man. To be religious differs from the state of belief very much. It presupposes to live and to weigh all your deeds and actions within the frames described in Holy Books, rules. You may believe or not, but for 40 years of living among religious figures and in processes related to them, I have not happened to see at least one man following religious can-



ons and rites completely. I can prove it with many facts. I do not reproach and blame them; I have no right for that, and there is no necessity. I can say one thing: if all religions (celestial and world ones) had not given people a chance to believe according to their understanding and abilities since the very beginning, none of them would have been able to exist up today. Longevity of religions is based on freedom of choice, way and form of believing. I am saying it by the way.

For five years of my activities at the state structure, I managed to come to some important, from my viewpoint, conclusions about interrelation and interdependence of Religion, Power and Society. I would like to familiarize you with my conclusions briefly. Thus, a reporting advice called "The Triangle of Stability" appeared in this book. It also includes spiritual stability of people who believe and religious ones.



Power, society and religion, a triangle of our earthly activities, has general and specific features.

No matter how high the power is, it has a reference point and a final decline point. All power, besides that of God, has the end.

Society is a vague notion by which a community of peoples and races is implied. It has its own laws of development and is almost eternal while mankind exists. History shows that society, as an active part of appearance and development of the world, can be wavy in general and, of course, is in close interrelation with the rest two triangle elements.

Religion, as a basic source of morals and spirituality has unchangeable canons; in itself, it is a conservative constituent of the triangle. Power can be democratic, monarchical, theocratic, tyrannical (the list can be continued, but I think it is enough) and one can say with certainty that it is changeable by essence and destination.



Society is the most complicated element of the triangle. It is the unsteady and sometimes unpredictable... It can be uncontrollable in different situations and have a certain "habit" due to its complicated structure – to love, deify, punish, hate, execute in public. History knows a lot of moments of this kind. Remember the French, Bolshevik revolutions, coups d'état in Eastern countries, at least Afghanistan president Najibullah's fate, whose corpse remained on the gibbet in the centre of Kabul for four days and people, i.e. society, took it as an ordinary course of history.

Power has some similarity with society. In any case, it is generated by society, if one can put it that way; in most countries of the world, it is fruit of collective, I would say, corporate agreements of the members of society. Nearly all states appeared this way. A child has some features by which he/she resembles his/her parents. However, the child can neglect the interests of the society that generated and brought



him up. This is not an exception. In this context, society, not power, is to blame. Upbringing of a child should start as early as in the womb of mother who should be an established subject able to give birth and bring up a leader. Afterwards, the complaints are vain, though this triangle has quite stable common qualities. However, unlike religion and society, power is limited by time and often dependent on the two other constituents.

A true harmony of power, religion and society emerges in very rare situations, or this notion is of rather virtual than concrete, palpable nature. Any changes in society are reflected upon the character of power. The interests of power and “keepers” of religious values often coincide, or they most likely interrelate for the sake of keeping society, the third participant, obedient. By supporting each other, they keep their authority and viability: religion for a long time, while power prolongs its term ensuing from the potentialities of its leaders. They are



dependent on conditions of society activity to different degrees. Any cardinal changes in the life of society may bring to that religion will have to sacrifice power for its own sake or vice versa. History has proved that.

In interrelations among power, religion and society, the latter always loses. Religion and power have concrete people with clear-cut self-defense and self-preservation plans, while society does not have similar qualities. It remains in the state of losing any guideline, if to except power and religion, and starts moving chaotically, which may lead to disasters and destruction of its structure and the rest two constituents, power and religion. Therefore, to avoid such a deplorable turning point, religion and power should take care of society, its welfare without letting it go beyond what can lead to rupture of their ties. These are unwritten rules of self-preservation in some way. For self-preservation, one should not destroy or humiliate others. This is the last and undesirable vari-



ant. The dignity of one of the triangle elements can be preserved only when the two other elements exist normally. There is nothing to oppose to this fact.





ADVICE NO.8:

SELF-ESTEEM AND APPRAISAL

Human self-esteem should not go down, lower than the fixed, I would say, the acceptable level. A human being should not try to overestimate himself artificially. Sooner or later, this falsification will turn out obvious and lose the interest of people around him becoming the reason of disappearance of the ground the human being of this kind stands on. It is true that not all people are given a chance to know where to stop. For all that, people of science, art, and in general, intellect owners must pay much attention to that than others. As a rule, the measure of every person's esteem is defined by itself, by behavior and the level of the very person, naturally, without excessive interference of the person himself. It seems to me that he/she must know the appraisal of his/her person as a man of science, art worker, or a model



man from others. They can give a just appraisal of your merits. Unjustice is inherent to everybody. However, the thought that the estimation might be incorrect is not the reason for overestimation. A person must have something that can be given a high appraisal to, something that attracts people's attention. All this depends on the person himself, on his honesty, sense of truth. The rest can be formed by itself. Every estimation is as individual as a human being. *God does not create doubles. This is not peculiar to Him. Every person is an individual creature of the Creator, if one can put it that way.* And it is then that the foundation of human self-esteem and place among others are laid down. One thing supplements the other to create a harmonious world of our appraisals and self-esteem.





ADVICE NO.9:

**SOUL AND PEACE
ARE INCOMPATIBLE**

A soul is the heavenly angel

All religions in their duties incline to the idea that a human soul cannot get peace until it serves a physical body. The phrase “wish you peace of mind” in fact is close in its meaning to wishing death, an eternal peace. As long as your body and brains get and perceive constant impulses and information, your soul cannot be in a state of peace. It is designed not for peace, but for a more or less active life. The end of activity is the beginning of body death, the last preparations for the parting of the soul. This is not my invention. In this is the very meaning of life, i.e. a harmony of soul and body, their cohabitation in the vale of life. If a soul and a body meet once, it means that they will have to



part with each other one day, no matter they have been in harmony or bore discomfort or felt hostility towards each other.

Anyway, like any parting, the end of body/soul contact is very painful for each of them. The body experiences a physical, real pain, while the soul feels a virtual pain. The loss of one of the constituents of our earthly being only implies the end of our body existence. However, according to God's intention, this must happen in a natural way. Sometimes, the soul has suddenly to leave the body, without expecting that (in different death-related situations, for example, an instant death at wars, during earthquakes, accidents, etc.). There where such death takes place, remain offended souls that did not manage to complete their missions on earth. It is rather their offence that creates an oppressive aura in those places. It is not occasionally said that "evil spirits dwell" in such place. I am saying this by the way, not in witness of my view on this.



A soul moves in a body not with an intention to meet a sudden end, and as life shows, it never leaves the body until the latter putrefies and the functions of body organs stop. Even if this is the case, the soul stays near the body for a long time and watches with bitterness the dearest creature it was predestined to dying.

According to some beliefs, the soul does not leave the 'house' of its physical ward for forty days hoping to be needful to its corporal companion. I do not know why forty days namely. What is the meaning of this time notion? I am not aware of that and therefore, I cannot say whether it is good or not. There is a time for things. The soul is said never to leave the body without any reason. In this case, the soul in fact is in confusion. Maybe the word combination "restless soul" is not to the point at all; this combination is used to a human being, but it is related to this substance somehow. Apparently, the soul does not want to understand and accept the loss and it "cries" as it is said



sometimes. I think this is true. It cries silently, not disturbing anyone. Perhaps, the soul itself has some problems with its ward, i.e. the body. When we leave this life, i.e. during the soul/body parting, only mind helps us behold the moment of forced leaving of the soul. After that the soul is indifferent to what may happen to it. However, the soul that left us apparently would like the living people to treat with respect the body it served for years. Evidently, due to respect to the soul, a heavenly substance, all religions order their followers special forms of treatment to the body that the soul left. According to religions, the body must be committed to the earth. Afterwards, it will become a part of the whole planet, of the Universe. The soul will rest in peace then; the soul, while in a human body, could show its beauty and abilities, and now it has played with dignity the part the Mighty assigned it in the universal performance. Any part in this performance is honourable. As to the genre, it may differ much.



This is not important. Everybody is assigned a part, and the place of the soul on different levels of cosmic existence depends on how the part will be played. Thus, we can, though partially, compensate our duty before the soul. The place of our soul, a good angel, depends directly on our deeds.

Perhaps, this is the reason why the soul does not leave the body for forty days hoping that it will “hearten up”. Unlike the human body, the soul is imperishable and immortal. It is a virtual substance, “up in the clouds” until it is moved into a newly-born body and ascends to heaven after leaving the dead body.

Taking into considerations different soul-related interpretations, I would like to notice several moments. Sometimes, when we speak about a good man, we say “he/she has a generous nature (in Russian it sounds like “his soul is wide”), he/she is open-hearted”. How naïve we, people, are! Every man has the very soul his/her body needs. It cannot be wide or ope-



ned. Sometimes, they say out of habit “I will give my soul for him” meaning “I will die for him”. It seems to me that one can offend the soul by that. It is not an object, a property that belongs to someone, one cannot use it as he/she likes. Besides, no one needs anybody’s soul that can become a burden. Everybody has his/her soul, and it is enough. To give or present your soul to anybody else is impossible. This is worse than to betray your family or Motherland.

To free your soul for the sake of anybody else, even of a dear person, means one thing: without the soul you are soulless and needless and, hence, lifeless. Your soul can leave your body that will become a prey for all earthly creatures in the graveyard. The remainder mixes with the ground. Save your souls! You need them and they are sacred. Perhaps the idea that human life is sacred originates from here. This is neither a price nor a characteristic of our



of our flesh. This is an ability of our soul, the heavenly angel.

The rest is a fruit of our unrestrained imagination, a false understanding of the essence of human soul. We do not know anything about it at all. We cannot control the soul as a substance like people think sometimes; it reacts to our actions, intentions and wishes in its own way. The soul has a supreme culture with zero defects. Therefore, it respects a human being in the following way: *when the body speaks, the soul keeps silent.*

Sometimes, people figuratively say “to live a soul in a soul” that means “to live in a harmony/concord”. In fact, a soul cannot be in another soul by destination which has been said above. It can either live as an individual substance or within one human body. According to religious belief, this is the most perfect state of the soul on earth, in a human body to which it moves for one purpose, i.e. to create comfort for the body.



The word combination “an open-hearted man”, i.e. ‘a man with a soul, not with a body’, is used when one wants to underline that a body is a physical structure of a spiritual origin. Unlike the body, the soul is imperishable. “With a strong mind”, i.e. with a strong soul, is said about a person when it is necessary to distinguish him among others, and his inner world. Naturally, there are people with strong body, but in this case the matter is the physical, not the spiritual. However, “with a strong mind and body” implies a model of a person. It should be noticed that the sequence is as follows: with a strong mind first, and then body. We also say “poor in spirit” about a person who is concerned not with his soul, spirit, but his body, who has aspiration to all that is earthly, rather than to the sublime. The presence of such people’s soul is of formal nature, if one can put it that way.

If we say “an open-hearted person”, we would like to underline not only his spiritual-



ity, but also his care about a neighbor. There is also a word combination “a spiritual person” meaning that a person lives not only by means of daily bread; he has a high degree of harmony of soul and body. Everybody knows the phrase “the eyes are the mirror of the soul”, since they demonstrate more distinctly and silently the person’s spirituality, possession, purposefulness in one cases, and wicked thoughts and lust in others. There is also a well-known phrase “a subtle person”, not a person with a ‘thin’ body, since in this case it is dystrophy. Only the substance of divine essence and unlimited abilities can be that subtle, a substance that includes love, understanding and, strange as it is, obedience.

When the matter is the soul, we cannot, of course, show it to others like the body which can be demonstrated in a laboratory for studies. Such a necessary and important constituent of our life as soul can be virtually imagined as an invisible substance, a certain state, which is be-



yond our comprehension and is our essence. Despite our sins, sufferings, incurable diseases, we do our best to keep our soul up to the last breath, and at times it reciprocates its feelings, surprising and not always understandable. To my understanding, this is the strongest connection of a person with the external substance, with what he has dealt with in his earthly being. He parts with the soul, i.e. his active coexistence with the souls is interrupted, and his body decays. Nonetheless, the memory of the soul is eternal and keeps information, up to details, about our body and deeds. It has both boundless patience and unlimited memory. So, in order to understand the essence of its earthly companion, what the human being is, the soul has to stand all earthly sufferings. The soul is likely to think so. Our sacred duty is to save this fragile heavenly substance and to leave it only pleasant recollections about ourselves and the times it served our flesh.



Dear reader! I would like also to share my thoughts about interrelations between those who take a direct participation in our earthly being, i.e. angels and the Devil which refused to prostrate before the man. This is my subjective opinion, but I have backed it with information I got from numerous books on religions of the world.

The soul, the spirit, call it as you like, is one of the numerous angels sent down by God for serving a human being, an earthly creature. Even a primitive man knew that his thoughts, feelings and will are conditioned by something that is different from his body and interrelated with it at the same time. The soul moves into our body. The soul is said to be a mistress of our body. I agree with that, and can add with certainty that it is the mistress and slave of our body simultaneously. Only divine essence, i.e. our soul which is our angel, can combine dual nature of destination. However, it does not interfere in other angels' affairs, including those



of the Devil which refused to serve people and promised God ground its refusal with practical deeds. As it is written in Holy Scriptures, God agreed to that. Our mind is free in choosing between good and evil. This is what most people often confuse with predestination setting hopes that everything is predestined in heavens and nothing can be changed. Any divine predestination can be corrected in accordance with the activity of our mind and the ability of choosing between the two alternatives, good and evil. As to reasonable creatures, predestination towards them is not of dogmatic and unchangeable nature. Predestination and absolute programming are related to those living beings that do not have such a mobile and active consciousness as we do. This is an obvious distinction of people's predestination from animals' programming. The freedom of choice is not an advantage; it is rather certain responsibility, a burden for our consciousness. This is how I understand this kind of freedom. Unfortunately, our angels do



not “work” for us. They serve for our desires and intentions without interfering in the affairs of the Devil, the angel of evil. This is their heavenly agreement, and our feeble mind has to be in the center of the agreement. The angel is inside us, while the Devil walks around with an intention to involve us in foul plays by using us as a witness of its initially evil relation to the man.

In conclusion of my thoughts about human soul, I would like to bow my head before any soul that decided to move in our body, a soul that dedicated itself to a human being, loving him and devotedly giving him everything it has. Only soul is able to be in our body, patiently and compliantly, never complaining of our deeds and even crimes we commit.





**THE LAST ADVICE:
TOUCH WISDOM!**

Dear reader!

The person I have been talking to during the time I have been writing my story is not a fictional hero as it often occurs. He is real, and most of you know him well. He is academician Tofig Kocharly, the uncle of my wife by her father's side. He lived with dignity and more than a year ago he passed away with dignity and left us his *rich life and science experience* as an imperishable heritage. Everyone can find something useful for himself/herself in that if necessary. I think Tofig muallim's some deeds and thoughts can be a worthy contribution to our forefathers' heritage.

Versatility, vividness of Tofig muallim's character allowed me to choose him as a positive hero of the modest story of my heart, to present a person who was born in the remotest



mountainous village and reached the summits of science with hard work and patience, including the science of life. Everything you have read in the book is real facts and events of which we are contemporaries.

The histories of the life of two boys, Tofig and Rafig, are alike in some way and differ at the same time. A difficult, thorny path, hard work, friendship with good, control over emotions, sensitiveness towards the voice of conscience, in fact, let one of them, i.e. Tofig, claim to such a high status worth of imitation, the status of a man and a citizen, patriot of his Motherland and family, faithful friend and fighter for what he considered to be right. Each of us has own truth, life and right to use them. The total, i.e. the name we leave after us to generations to come, and contemporaries' estimation depends on the ways we reach results.

My talk to Tofig Kocharly gives an opportunity to touch our forefathers' wisdom, to remember who we were, who we have become,



who we would like to be in future, with what we have entered XXI century, a century of hard times and difficult decisions. Our ancestors' rich experience can and must help us to face the challenges of the time with dignity, time we have to live in, create and preserve the high name of the Azerbaijanian.

All know that ancestors' wisdom does not literally give us material values. It provides each of us with equal chances of searching values, including material ones. Some people find them quickly, others do not find at all. This depends on a person. One who looks for will always finds!

The scope of wisdom is boundless. This is what makes it great and invaluable. Nobody has managed to commensurate its value. There are simply not such devices for that. It takes many generations to store wisdom and it is designed for centuries.

A diamond or a precious thing never lies on the roadside or under feet. If this is the case,



then it is certainly lost wealth. It does not usually bring happiness; such a find rather leads to misfortune. The lost wealth loses its true value. It means that the possessor of the wealth was not worthy of it. It is not him who lost the wealth, the latter left the ungrateful owner. Such sounds the voice of wisdom. It would be better to consider it. There would be no harm exactly.

So, wealth has been offended. Such offence often changes the character and destination of the wealth. It will not bring happiness and joy to its owner any more. It passes sentence to itself, to refuse serving people. It is not occasional that such wealth often becomes the source of misfortune and grief. It is valuable until it is valued, saved and respected. The human worst state is when wealth turns away from him. There is a rough saying related to this, meaning that money runs away from us or wealth hates us! This is true.



There are cases when wealth corrupts people, makes them evil, avaricious and engenders hatred and spite in their hearts, the sense of grievance against the whole world for the missed chance. There appears a desire to take vengeance upon everybody and everything, though we do not always understand why this happens. There seems to be everything, except happiness. Does not this mean that wealth you obtained by chance has been lost by somebody else and had its character and destination have changed?

A diamond is wealth in a single form, while wisdom is a whole box, full of treasures among which a lot of diamonds and other gems are. Therefore, wisdom is not commensurable with any material wealth. It is on the top of all material values and sparkles, lighting up the way better than any diamond!

Wisdom has always been and is claimed in the history of mankind, and it belongs to everybody without exception. The only required



and important thing is who and how will use this truly unvaluable treasure, whether one will use it to his/her detriment or for his/her welfare, whether will preserve or not its highest value by his/her deeds and how this will reflect the past which is a bridge to the present and a firm foundation for arrangement of future generations' life. I am sure, each of us and of those to come will not shake this firm foundation of life. On the contrary, they will try to make it much firmer and more resistant to a strict test of coming centuries. Only so can the established nation remain in history, which is created by a nation, i.e. by people, physically vulnerable but with a strong mind, witty and good-natured. History knows many people of this kind, and there are still such people. I do not know whether you have ever seen in movies or on TV the process of gold or uncut diamond mining. Several tens tones of rock contain just grains of precious metal or several gems called "uncut diamond". This mineral the name of which-



means from Ancient Greek ‘the strongest, hardest’, differs from other precious metals and stones in its hardness and unchangeable quality. Our forefathers’ wisdom resembles an uncut diamond in some way, therefore, like a total of their knowledge, everybody likes the diamond without exception, though, like wisdom, it is designed for those who wants it very much, who is worthy of that and goes towards this wisdom step by step and becomes strong, solid, wise and unchangeable by character during the life. At the moment of the contact with the gem, a person becomes precious because of his experience of fighting for the beautiful, for his dream. This is wisdom! It excels all gems in its strong quality and preciousness. This is what needs care, attention and love as something very precious in our life.

Wisdom does not burden a human being, does not have a pressure on his psyche and take any efforts and does not ask anything in return. Material wealth, no matter how easily we try to



define our attitude to it, requires efficiency of strengths, possible and impossible, worthy and unworthy. One has to do with material wealth long; sometimes it becomes a burden, a threat for our life. The sense of fear to lose it, to part with it always accompanies our souls. This can often lead to unhappy end. Therefore, there should be a bit of wisdom next to wealth.

Dear reader! Start on a journey in search of values with help of the forefathers' wise pieces of advice and deeds. They have not failed anybody yet, and will not fail you as well. Just save them. You can do this, really can!





PARTING

Tofig muallim, my dear interlocutor. It is about six o'clock. Nushaba will wake up soon. She has formed a habit to wake up twice – at six o'clock and eight o'clock. Once I told her that the soul can leave the body during the dream too. Since then she wakes up at six o'clock and listens to my breathing to be sure that both the soul and the body are still in harmony.

Fidan, my granddaughter, is constantly watching me. Her picture is on the wall, while she is always in my heart. I think she is the only person to be able to overhear us. However, at this time she usually sleeps. What a wonderful creature! She has her own world. By the way, tomorrow is her birthday, she will be ten. I will convey your congratulations to her. She will be very happy, because none of her friends has got heavenly congratulations yet!



It is getting light. The rays of the dawn will help us take our own places: you - in the heaven, me - on the earth. It is very sad! You and me are obedient creatures. We cannot break the order of the Universe, especially as we know that the world is one, though is divided into two parts: here and there.





THE COST OF THE FLIGHT...

Dear Tofig muallim. The most precious you and me have is pure conscience and honored name. These intangible substances cannot be obtained for money. They are not commensurable and endless wealth. You have already taken them with you, while I will try to exchange them to nothing. If there is a real threat to lose one of them, be sure I will fly to you with them immediately. This is not difficult. Human destiny must be in his/her own hands. Fear is a bad adviser. I refused its service as far back as my childhood.

Then it will be fun and quiet, and we will not think of a loss of anything precious.

Therefore, as long as I have an opportunity to talk to you in this special way when, by the way, everything depends on your desire of talking, exchanging information, I will tell you about earthly peripetias. You, in your turn, will familiarize me with your cosmic state, mood



and what earthly problems of children and relatives still trouble you.

It seems to me we have come to an agreement about everything in a quiet atmosphere. The main approaches to life have become partly the subject of our long conversation. There is an intention to continue this wonderful, emotional talk.

For all that, the reason of our virtual meeting is the 80th anniversary of academician Tofiq Kocharly. Yes, yes, I mean you. We calculate age by earthly measures. Your children are up to the mark, especially Irada, as well as your grandchildren. To respect and honore grandfather is not an obligation and duty as the adults sometimes explain to their children. The first word includes some compulsion, while the second presupposes the presence of obligation. I would say it in other way: this is the emerging elements of understanding values that you tried to instill in your children, grandchildren and friends. These very values lay down the



foundation and are saved in the receptacle providing “the cost of any flight”.

While I was completing the last line, you managed to leave me as a gentleman, without saying good-bye. Angels usually behave like this. They are said never to say good-bye. You know better, I trust you. You will come again if you want to have a heart-to-heart talk.





AFTER PARTING

To say farewell means mutually to agree on peaceful parting. This does not include the idea of losing hopes for new meetings. If ones say farewell, it means they have forgave each other.

A need of speaking out, a desire to be heard is a cherished dream of every person thinking of the meaning of existence. This process is like a certain state of heart that has neither the reference point nor the final stop. When finishing one business, a person starts thinking about another. Such is life, the merry-go-round of being. The versatility and vividness of earthly life in all its manifestations give a human being the key to the doors of eternal searches. Every search presupposes a not simple find, because your virtual searches have nothing common with archeology as a science. You start the path of searching without taking



instruments with you. The main tool of such search is your love, abilities, hardworking, patience, understanding and accepting of any, even smallest, find. The object of this kind of searching can be in two dimensions – in virtuality and in a certain human life with all their positive and negative sides. Every new find is one more stone brick in the building of your pyramid, though not every virtually imagined pyramid can be constructed till the end. The main is there should not be long pauses in the process. Few people manage to build up their life pyramids and look from their tops at the way passed and many interesting, important, and joyful things as well as sad ones. The top of desires and potentialities of those who do not manage to complete their pyramids is where the process will be interrupted. This must not offend anyone, since that was predestined.

You see our endless searches of the meaning of life do not presuppose level roads, paths or something new. We all are very different, but



there are things that make us equal. Irrespective of our desires, we must face these important elements of life on earth. They seem to be studying, understanding of what is going on, acceptance, resignation, love, hatred, evil, betrayal, loss of the dearest and nearest, or precious things, etc. At least one out of the listed things is common to us that bounds us to others, and then the picture of the world completes, the circle closes up.

Separately, these elements determine and form the position of each of us. We are inside one building called the Universe. It is the greatest honour for every living, thinking tenant of the Universe to be its part!

March, 2009





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