

## Nicolaie Heredea, in memoriam

The idea of commemorating Nicu Heredea now, when his memory is still alive, denotes the spirit of appreciation of the values that reigns in SNSIM. Nicu Heredea was a personality who distinguished himself by the aspirations in which we found ourselves as his supporters, but also a sincere, open, enthusiastic and extremely reliable colleague, whose absence has greatly affected us.

I met Nicu Heredea when he came to me as a messenger, but also as a friend of Prof. Alexandru Ozunu. He described to me so beautifully the Society that was only being constituted that I imagined a monocephalous brotherhood of Renaissance type. It is interesting that this image of SNSIM persists in my subconscious.

On his second missionary visit he also told me about his life as a geologist. Then I discovered he was originally from the Apuseni Mountains. As I also grew up on the right bank of the Mureş river, on the southern border of the Apuseni Mountains, the news brought me great joy.

I found out then that he attended the primary school in Zlatna and graduated from HCC boys' high school in Alba-Iulia, which I also graduated from 12 years ago. It was a special, atypical high school. Equipped with an Astronomy lab, once a week, then maths teacher, Mr. Peribiceanu, used to introduce his students to the mysteries of the universe, but would also help them understand the phrase "On Earth as it is in Heaven".

Since then, as former high school colleagues, I started inviting Nicu to my house where we started a series of heated discussions. More precisely, they were soliloquies in which I listened to his speeches, including the one about Forest and Humanity, throughout the Planet and in Romania.

In order to understand his philosophy of a highlander, I appealed to Rădulescu-Motru. The distinguished sociologist made a comparative study between the Swiss cantons and the Apuseni Mountains, revealing striking similarities. Therefore, I was not surprised by the humanization of the forests from Nicu's speech.

I have walked the Apuseni Mountains, but nowhere in the world have I seen a more beautiful starry sky. It seemed like Van Gogh's mysterious Starry Night painting. At the time of our conversations I was still under the impression of Marta Petreu's novel "Home, in the Plain of Armageddon". The subtle psychology, smoldering for a long time, of the grieving Transylvanian, masterfully described by the authors, must have also impacted on Nicu's subconscious.

One could see that he was unwavering in his beliefs. When I arrived in Israel I did not hesitate to ask to see the ominous Plain, once crossed by the Silk Road. With very well-reasoned and scientifically backed beliefs, Nicu continued to hope that local and even global authorities would become aware of the situation and intervene before it was too late. Deep down, he still believed in the values of democracy, ignoring the fact that it was one of the aberrations of ancient Greece. Socrates drank his deadly poison by the hand of the democracy he had cultivated himself.

A few years ago, I showed Nicu in Hawking's 2001 book *The Universe in a Nutshell* the graph of the demographic explosion accompanied by comments on the dramatic consequences. Suddenly Nicu blushed and he murmured that maybe we will not live those times. In his solid optimism he thought, of course, that such events will never take place on Earth.

Destiny wanted something different. Only his life stopped. The explosion continues under our helpless eyes. And this was not an isolated case. In 2017, Hawking also asked for a World Government to stop the aggression of artificial intelligence, and in 2018 he disappeared as well. Through the kindness of Maria Popa, our dear colleague from Alba Iulia, I received and read Nicu's CV. Impressive! This man didn't live without a purpose. It is worth honoring his memory as a Prince of the West. May God bless him! May he rest in peace!

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