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Aslan ZHAKSYLYKOV: «ON SOCIUM AND SPIRITUALITY»

We live at a turning point in history — social and economic relations, ideology and ideals, cultural guidelines, and mentality are changing. Such conditions “compel” a man to live in a constant existential crisis, because “old” values are vague, and the new ones have not been determined yet. The most adverse effect these books had on book output: we have broken ourselves of the habit of reading books — the world is not poetic and epic any more. It has become ordinary, prosaic, and pragmatic. What is going to happen to bellettristic literature in new conditions?

We have discussed the most sacramental subjects — the word, book’s purpose and writer’s mission with Aslan Zhamelovich Zhaksylykov. Our interviewee is a well-known writer, translator, Doctor of Philological Science, Professor at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, author of over 200 research papers and 15 fiction works.

**Works capable of resurrecting a man**

- I like your assessment of the works by Adolf Artsishhevsky you made in one interview, “I would like to remind you that he published 26 books during his life. A man can be killed and resurrected with a collection of his works at the same time, if you will pardon my peculiar humour.”

- It was said at his book’s presentation ceremony at the start of this year. He does movingly write about various people, i.e. writers, poets, musicians, and artists; his interviews with famous personalities are read bellettristic works; his literary comparisons amaze with their figurativeness and novelty; his nature descriptions impress with their lyricism. He is a true chronicler of Kazakhstan.

- You have written many books as well. What is going to happen to books at such complicated time in the conditions of the market economy?

- At large, despite gloomy forecasts even in the age of computer technologies and market economy, book industry has remained stable in many countries. For instance, Russian book-publishing industry, having overcome the crisis of the 90’s, has obviously been on the rise in recent years. Besides, thick journals of the Soviet era, which have always been a driving force behind bellettristic and academic literature, are still published in Russia, just like journal “Inostrannaya literatura” [Foreign literature].

In our country a general crisis has affected our book publishing industry in two ways: production and sales. We have neither paper manufacturing enterprises, nor paper recycling. The only thing we have is a recycling plant that takes waste paper and processes it. We need to increase our reproduction rate, because our nation is developing and new generation is born. It is needed to ensure printing of school textbooks, making up to 80% of the printing output.

Aslan Zhaksylykov: “When I was a young writer, I never thought about the huge amount of money spent on book printing. If today I could realize the cost of a book, maybe I would never write!”