

## **DUMITRU BATIR: THE INFINITE ROAD OF THE HOURGLASS**



The great thinker and enlighten writer Voltaire had said: "The day of a great spiritual revolution will come doubtless. A man of my age will not see it, but he will pass away hoping that people will become more enlighten and milder". This day can be brought nearer through an assiduous work of each human being. These thoughts came into my mind when I tried to remind the image of the professor Dumitru Batir, whom I had always around me for better, for worse, having his generosity and competence, tact and kindheartedness along my formation and affirmation on the scientific, didactic, cultural and public fields. For he was the promoter of my good fate.

Reaching the time of balance-sheet, Dumitru Batir is a distinct personality in the contemporary scientific landscape, who asserted himself through the wide variety of concerning and the diversity of the fields to which he contributed: an outstanding chemistry researcher, a highly appreciated university professor, a faithful chronicler of the science and culture evolution, the creator of terminology and nomenclature in chemistry, a plenary engaged citizen in the public life, a man of the completed duty.

By his formation, Dumitru Batir is inorganic chemist, specialized in coordinative, biocoordinative and ecologic chemistry. He was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1927 in Budesti village, Balti district, he graduated from The Pedagogic University from Chishinau (1947-1951), obtained his doctor degree at the Inorganic Chemistry Department of The State University of Moldova (1952-1956), worked as lecturer at The Pedagogic University from Tiraspol (1956-1959). After these, his life and activity is ceaselessly connected to the Institute of Chemistry of The Academy of Sciences of Moldova, where he by turn occupies the position of superior scientific researcher (1959-1960), scientific secretary (1960-1963) and assistant director for scientific problems (1964-1974), the chief of the Bioinorganic Chemistry Laboratory (1975-1987). Beginning with 1988 he is the principal scientific researcher at the same institution, being simultaneously university professor, having special course initiated by him. He obtained the degree of doctor (1958) and doctor habilitat (1974) in chemistry, the didactic title of university professor (1984) and was the laureate of the State Prize of the Republic of Moldova (1996).

His researchers are focused on the research of the physical-chemical structure-properties relations which lead to the discovery of the ways of building biologically active compounds with expected features, as well as to the prospecting of the toxicophores which determines the noxiousness of the substances. Via the contribution of the scholar there have been elaborated original methods of synthesis, there have been studied the properties, there has been explained the structure and proved the possibility to implement the synthesized compounds in industry, medicine and agriculture. The obtained results made possible to perform refuseless technologies with a significant economic efficiency.

The bibliography of Dumitru Batir counts over 900 titles, inclusive 18 books and 22 patents that have been applied as biopharmaceutical preparations, stimulative fodder ingredients, stabilizers, rigiditive agents. The results of scientific investigations had been presented within different congresses, conferences, national and international symposia, being highly appreciated the outstanding contribution of the scholar in the development of fundamental sciences, plenary involvement in social and human problems, creative spirit.

Being the founder and the chief of Bioinorganic Chemistry Laboratory (1975) and of the Interdepartmental Laboratory of Veterinary Biotechnology (1980), he introduced in the scientific circuit new conceptions and elaborated new performing technologies, prepared 9 doctors and habilitate doctors in chemistry, who activate nowadays in education, research and production, continuing the tradition of Scientific School of Chemistry and Biocoordinative Ecochemistry launched by him. Along the years he published around 500 analytical articles, essays, sketches medallions and other materials that contributed to the round of his image of professor and modern researcher, of animator of scientific and cultural life, of publisher. The professor Dumitru Batir works permanently as a member of the Councils of encyclopaedically works, as well as editorial board of the of academicals journals.

Dumitru Batir asserts that he had great luck in his life to have around him teachers, masters, disciples and friends of elite. In the early childhood, beginning with primary school he had a lot of rare books that his openhearted teacher Theodor Purch provided to him. After this, he enjoyed the library of the highly erudite Alexandru Cosmescu, from which he read almost the books. In the field of chemistry he had been initiated and guided by such unrepeatable scholars

as the large-hearted Eugeniu Nirca and the famous Antonie Ablov. He was encouraged by the outstanding researchers as Nicolai Javoroncov and Yurii Zolotov from Moscow, Yacov Fialkov from Kiev, Petru Spacu from Bucharest and many others. He shared his bread with the great artist and thinker Igor Vieru who gave him as presents two memorable portraits; he had near him Ion Vatamanu, Nicolae Testimitsanu, Sergiu Radutsanu.

Probably he had luck. Still a whole world knows that if at night at the Institute of Chemistry there is a light, than this comes from the laboratory in which Dumitru Batir works hard. A human life changed into hard work! For Dumitru Batir hard work appears as a necessity, a work from the deep soul, with the open heart and bore on wings of enthusiasm and which nobody would be able to do instead of him. For him work is a blessing which gives sense to life and strength to man, beauty to human nature and nobles. Not at random we called him "A man of work" 10 years ago in a warm word of homage addressed to the celebrated. Because only the creative work as a social and moral process ensure the progress, confer to man the supreme happiness, prolonging his life after his death. Because his life does not melt in yesterday, but becomes the symbol of that tomorrow that is to come.

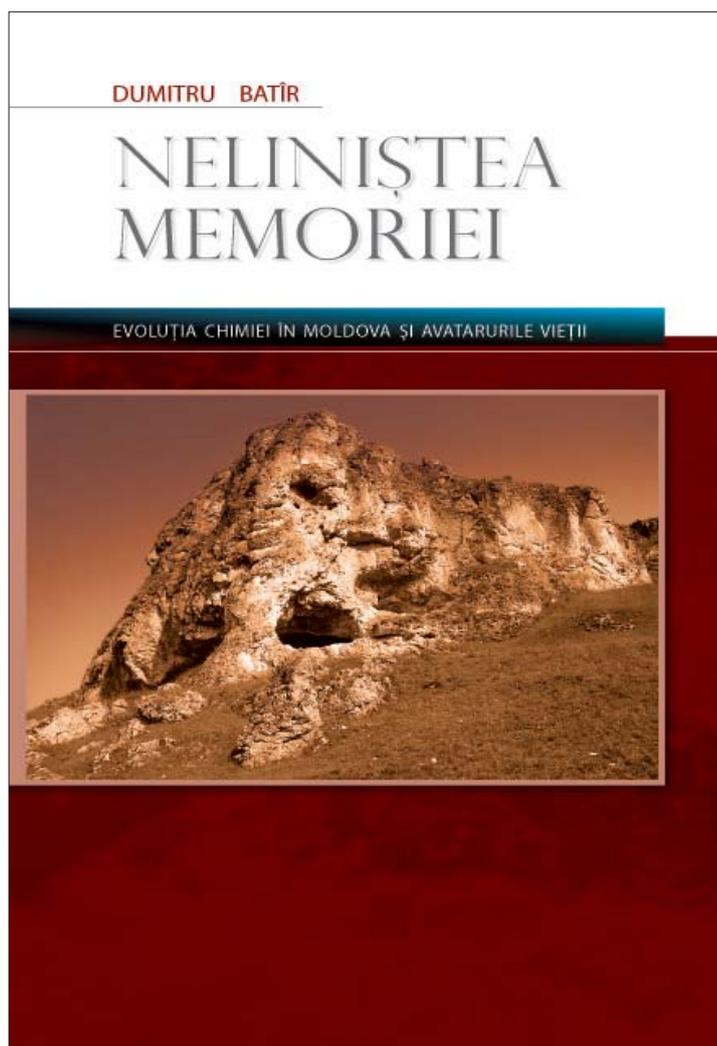
But which are the origins, where from comes the passion for research and rounding up the things that have been started, the interest to reveal the things that are lived through books? We can find the answer in a confess of the master Vasile Vasilache who was writing in the days of inauguration of the Academy of Sciences, on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1961 in "Moldovan Culture" that Dumitru Batir is "full of power, as the vain of cornel tree. He is on a vigorous parent stock, nourished with the must of wormwood wine from the follow-grounds of Glodeni and bears in his soul the odor of the ground from the homeland Budesti". Years on, in 1996, the poet and publisher Ion Anton came to round up this portrait with the words:" Both the zeal of the bee and the masterliness of the jeweller are fully proper to the researcher Dumitru Batir... Being one of the chemistry researcher who masters both the chemical formula and the written word, he was selected by the His Excellency Providence to be the author of exceptional books".

We will stop briefly on the recently appeared book "Restless of memory. The development of chemistry in Moldova and the avatar of the life. Synthesis. Portraits. Medallions. Reflections." signed by Dumitru Batir – a monographic study about the evolution, within Moldovan area, from the origins to the present, of one of the fundamental science,

chemistry, considered the almighty queen of the life. Based on concrete archive materials, the author tried to reconstitute and define the profile of some educational institutions, research and application, involved directly in the given process. It happened that came together many synthesized articles about tens of educational and research, academic, university and interdepartmental institutions, interested in this field of science, as well as thousands portraits of savants, researchers and professors, founders of well known schools worldwide and home, who through their ambitions and hard work could promote the science and chemistry education in a difficult medium, managing to include the chemistry into the scientific concerns in our country.

Beside the strictly chronological, concrete informational, fully comprehensive aspect of studied materials arranged very carefully on the book page, the work has a character of affective history, in which a tone of confession, evocation, sometimes lyrics dominates. Factual material of almost incommensurable dimensions has been collected by the author with a healthy pedantry that is proper to a chemist-experimenter, but this material has a peculiar style of expression as like the author would touch with his soul and his breath some past times and some people that are always alive in his memory, because he lived among them the most difficult and the most beautiful moments of the evolution of a fascinating domain.

In the "Restless of Memory" there are



presented pieces of minds, attitudes – sometimes harsh, but always benevolent – passing easily from a domain to another, from an event to another, approaching sometimes names and events that do not refer to the chemistry but are part of the triangle Education-Science-Life, all in a logical, consistent and persistent chain with much daring, inspiration and mastery. Retrospective memory, especially in the case of a life experience like that of the savant Dumitru Batir, places us in a relation with yesterday's, today's, tomorrow's time, placing us in the middle of life facts, bringing sometimes pleasure, but in many cases dramatic and even tragic facts. This free flight of author through the space and time, with his meditations and reflections, affirmations and negations, could seem to us as unacceptable, but doubtless it would incite the public.

On the fourth page of the book we find an author's confession full of significance, in fact a credo to which he remained faithful during all his life: "Our faith and conviction is that in order to thrive we should know our past. The past is the lever that is able to transform the good into something better. The same way the strength of a tree resides in its root system, the human might is based on his past. Only a human affective archive, carefully gathered along the time like a priceless thesaurus would guarantee the unforgettableness, would identify or recover the bridges between generations, projecting image after image a full marathon of endless life, it could be the certificate of maturity for the passers throughout the mornings and the evenings of this life, because it is an authentic document of a community caught in the nets of a deep sentiment of restless memory"

At one of his latest launches of the book our famous professor and colleague Dumitru Batir had confessed that every book is like a precious child for him that appeared as a result of the love for the books of that who is writing it, a longing tear for present and future searchers of truth, a truth admired as majesty, a drop of dew fallen from heavens via a divine inspiration in which like in a mirror is reflecting the figure of the author with all the present, past and forever aspirations with his signs on the tally of time.

At the end of reading the pages of this book we are led to the idea that it would be wonderful if every academic profile institution could analyse their steps and would try to do a reconstitution of the long and difficult way passed by the given institution presenting to us the people and their actions that cannot be left to pass into an anonymous or forgotten world; that would be unforgivable. In fact this is another message of the book "The Restless of the Memory", that we presented with understanding and appreciation to the reader.

Academician Gheorghe DUCA  
President of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova