



May 1, 2022

*It's one thing to want! It's other thing to be able to!
And the third and fourth is to do it.
Nikolay Haytov
(from the story Manly Times)*

Friends,

When I was very young, the biggest authorities for me were high school students. With their greatcoats and school hats, they radiated a unique charm. I lived very close to the former Thessaloniki High School. Soon after, I was captured by the soldiers.

Marching and very serious, closely watched by other older soldiers, walking on both sides of their line. Once a week they were taken to the old mineral bath and just walked along our main street.

My house was next to the oldest school in town, and I began to sit for hours in its yard, watching the elder boys and girls. Some of them (I later realized that these were the authorities) included us in their games. They showed us how to do anything, today they call it good practices.

From an observer of what was happening in the school yard, I became a direct participant in what was happening in it. When, on September 15, I lived out my dream of growing up, I suddenly felt very responsible.

My greatest authority was embodied by the strictest primary school teacher, my classmate comrade. We loved her. She taught us rules, order, respect and creativity, free thinking. She turned us into a collective. I later learned that she was from a repressed and interned family.

She did not say a bad word about the regime, but in every way she encouraged unconventional thinking and free spirit.

I was grewing up, and the strictest teachers became my favourites and friends. They went backed on their words to please us. In high school, they were punished by the management, and we (not all, of course) loved them even more.

Both they and my family taught me that a person proves himself not with words, but only with deeds.

At home I was brought up in order, discipline, diligence, respect for ancestors and intolerance of lies, hypocrisy and injustice. At home, I learned the true story of my suffering free Macedonia (it was not talked about). I felt more Bulgarian when I realized the official lies. I was raised to believe in God, and that was out of fashion then. My authority teachers taught us, in an unobtrusive way, the same.

I absorbed like a sponge the stories of my mother and father about their professors, who graduated from Munich, Paris, Zurich. For the life lessons more valuable than the academic education they have been taught. My grandfather only shared with me how he learned from German engineers and how entrepreneurs once



selflessly helped each other. It was a holiday for me when we went to his friend—the Bishop of Nevrokop. I always left with a book that had disappeared from libraries.

Today I am grateful to all those who brought me up to order, discipline and respect for democratic and human values, for intolerance of lies, double game and hypocrisy. They revealed to me the truth that only deeds speak of man, and after him only the selflessly created and granted remains.

I am flattered by the thought that perhaps this is why God has endowed me with a unique wife and mother of three wonderful children, of whom I am proud. That He opened the way for me to Rotary, where I keep finding kindred spirits who motivate me not to give up because of some, as a friend who left our club with bitter said, 'temporal phenomena'.

As the secretary of my club, I was fortunate to take very active participation in the establishment of our Rotaract and Interact clubs. I saw what happened when the overly big ego of our 'friends' created a Rotaract club—a one-year-old, thinking it would just drink the life juices of our still-amazing Rotaract club.

I am flattered to think that I have passed on what I have learned to those after me.

I am proud to have attached the Interactor badge to our Interact Club's first President. Then the Rotaractor one, and he did not miss the Interact Club meetings as well. Years later, to a Rotarian when he felt he had stabilized his small business and raised a successful family. A young active man, already raising his young child.

This is so, when you want but you are also able to, and what is done remains after you.

In fact, May is defined by Rotary as a **month to work with the younger generations**, and it is not a campaign—it is a way of life.

Yours in Rotary,

Borislav Kadrekov,
District Governor 2021-22
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