

Doctor's profession – science, skill or mission

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„Study what you want, and know what you can, but you must not learn one thing: to misuse your knowledge. How many times it was said: it is better not to know than to know but to misuse”

holy Nikolaj Velimirović

Doctors, as not many people find out better and more completely the values and human physical transience because every day they meet eternal death puzzle, human life secrets and human illness traps, for they are awake together with the sick with their sad eyes and encourage human eternal hopes on the eternal crossroads between lovely duration and eternal stoppage. Doctors rely on their personal skills and a growing medical power, but they are also eminent ones who know that there is not the man who is a complete copy of some other human being in the same way that every illness is in its basic depths a specific case and a puzzle for itself. A human life itself is fathomless in its mystery, eternal wonder field for every curious being and the loveliest research space for intelligent scientists, wise men, and health missionaries.

God made this world perfect and put all the things properly in the right place, and every human being was given Liberty and the Cross, because there is no freedom that is not cross-like. God presented work, skills and knowledge to the people out of great love and on the top of celestial arc of human engagement He put the professions, skills and missions that deal with human souls and take care about physical and spiritual health of the men. Those eminent people were directed to the Harmony of all by their valuable earth assistants. Those valuable people are God's favorites and are great hopes of their community and ordinary people. The man that is the most gifted from the heaven and his ancestors, has also social duties and the greatest cosmic missions because where human liberty is the most fledged and completely mature, the personality must undergo a terrible burden and the Cross of mercy. It is not possible to be on the stellar arcs of the humans and not to feel all the painful responsibility of the assistants of the most powerful heavenly power. Those professions are: priests, doctors, soldiers, teachers, judicial and the statesmen.

Someone from the intelligent people could change that order or enumerate differently the significance of these professions, depending on which angle the secrets of the people are regarded but, wherever you look upon the Man, he is made in the way God is made, and you see veils of untold secrets. If you just approach a human body, you will find out how many worlds there are in every pore of its existence, unknown and undiscovered; and you will realize that everything that a man has found out so far about health and illnesses of the people, is worth all the attention and crown of glory but it is moderate for God's endless gifts when we just touch the human soul and spirit of the people, which is breathtaking with all the secrets of human existence. And what is the format of the people with the secret of the God itself? It is a dispersed ash and tangible foam of the simmering water.

A doctor's profession is a rare profession which has been in the human society since the early beginning and it was involved with many moral challenges, ethical dilemmas, human questions, unsolved tasks, antonyms of the mind, and the dilemmas of the society. It has never been easy to the most successful people of their time and the society itself to solve the most difficult existential questions, the significance of a being and the values of duration. The most important professions in human society have their clear rules and behavior codex because society gives them important tasks and great expectations and hopes are relied upon them.¹ People give the most valuable crowns and the most beautiful clothes, special marks of respect, symbols of power and sincere faith to social professions which are the base of the society but are, when necessary, cruel to them if they cheated hopes and expectations of the society. The thing that is worthy in all is great both in honor and penalty. Do not search for giants in the shades of grass. The man who wears the clothes of the holy and top professions cannot ask to be equaled to the rest of the people in their duties, and to be special only in prizes, glory, and honors. During history, doctors faced many risks, challenges, and fears which were imposed by life, their ruler, or their society. They had to make their decisions quickly, take extraordinary measures, and act very strictly because of critical health society states. It was upon doctor's timely, regular decisions, knowledge and skills and final success that there were deep consequences on society of the sick man and his near and distant surroundings. When the nations or small communities were faced with the misfortune of the mass illnesses, people turned their eyes to the sky and relied upon the knowledge and growing capabilities of their health missionaries.

It is known that healthy people and the flourishing communities, unfortunately, disregard doctor's profession because when the sun is hot, no one cares for the sun shade, but when there are danger alarms because of dangerous and difficult illnesses, all the eyes of the community are turned to their saviors – the doctors. Communities depend on doctor's hard-working acts because if the outcome of the disease is fatal for them or, even worse, for children, everybody loses: human hope, immediate family, profession's honor, and personal doctor's respect. If the state of the illness is above doctor's or human powers, it is easier to the community to accept loss or growing pain and then the eyes of the alive people are turned to the Gods and they pray for mercy in the future. Doctor's occupation is, and has always been, in its core,

¹ A great knowledge is not in itself either good or bad, in the hands of the evil man knowledge becomes poison, and in the mind of the good man knowledge becomes medicine. Those special among us must be honest people.

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turned to the skies because there is no general victory over human illnesses and physical human immortality.

A family that has lost a beloved one has never been the same again, it is a pain-stricken group of the community and largely deprived and crippled for future days. There is no fullness in life, true happiness and spirit of life and because of that, doctor's profession is so elevated because it is a spring of health of every community and true happiness of the Heaven's slaves. A community that has lost its eminent member, a beloved child or a hard-working host, stays poor in many virtues, it is incomplete and has no necessary flight and star strivings. Everything is deprived, pallid, and incomplete because of the loss. Since the human beginning, the desire for health and the necessity to overcome various and evil diseases and to make life longer is the basis of existence. Health² is a pre-condition for all the human life spirits, eternal and elevated acts, spiritual achievements, and lasting values. While there is health, there is also a true human life spirit, the rest is temptation and suffering. Yet, temptation and suffering can encourage acts of eternal values.

God gives to the people the strength of life, gifts, and challenges of duration: laugh, beauty, steps, meaning and all the irreproducible moments of happiness and human flight, as well as many pits of suffering, fields of sadness and sorrow. Thank you, for all the hard-working doctors, true envoys of hope, that you armed with knowledge, valuable science and tools of faith, because eminent doctors are your assistants on the earth who, while doing good to people, are trying to make physical life longer, refreshing spiritual health of the sick and who are also doing their best to be on the Christ's path who enlivened Lazarus³ and won the biggest victory so far in the world and showed power over natural necessity. Christ-loving doctors live on earth-mission because while successfully treating sick people show imperfectly what God can do in heavenly empire. Why is the Christian faith⁴ important in doctors, healthy and sick men? Because faith in health and the possibility of being cured, in values and dignity of a human personality, is sometimes more important than all the multiple treatment techniques and valuable doctor's knowledge, not to take away anything from knowledge powers and values of doctor's skills using faith, but, on the contrary, to strengthen and help⁵ them using it. God gave the

liberty to the man to find out deeper and more for the well-being of people and beings losing faith, but deep water will be crossed only by a truly faithful man. Knowledge is very necessary, but the knowledge itself in medicine is not enough⁶, nor in those parts of the spirit about the man, because the man is not the formation that should only be moved and whose track of flight should be anticipated. The man is a being that dreams, loves, has fears and suffers long, cherishes past memories and makes new silky days.

A man is a mystery.⁷ A man has subjected knowledge, techniques, and modern technologies rushing for positive influence of treatment and high percent of the success of treatment and he forgot what is the most valuable, and that is a human, scared being that devotedly searches for a warm look and a hand and merciful doctor's heart. It is never marked by any statistics and diagnostics, but can all the big numbers in this world replace and compensate for the faith of the people in the power of curing and a generous doctor's soul? A faithful thought can make curing and wonders because only love has the strength to elevate the wounded and fallen souls from the earthly dust. Blessed are eminent doctors who are armed with great knowledge, strong faith and human goodness, presented by love and hard work to do their best with the sick people and who elevate the sky on their back, because they outgrow human, earthly accomplishments.

Time, an honest and inviolable judge of all, will mark only the doctors great in their deeds and those with gentle heart. Those, about whom, the people will softly whisper in their homes. They will be sincerely respected by the sick. The painful and sick hearts will bless them and all those tired minds on their death beds. While dying, they send blessings to the doctor, heavenly empire is smiling at them, and the rest of the health workers are silently passing as the wind disappears in a careless flight. That's why a doctor who wants to last forever, has to fight persistently with all his weaknesses and to be above ordinary people – the mortals who do only what is expected from them and who will never by their acts reach Heaven.

Speaking the truth, our today's world is full of pessimists (sick and the doctors, parents and the children, teachers and the scholars) and those people who are chained by the light of richness and the powers of transient things. When human faith is not constantly strengthened, the possibility for the flight is becoming weaker. Unfortunately, many things are against the man who is a creator, enthusiast of his profession and human mission. There is nothing that a modern man did not do to gain the sense of things, discouraged and humiliated in the man himself, scientific achievements, and hard work of an

2 People, both first and last in their fortune, powerful and honorable share the same ontological destiny of the mortal and created beings. Never can people truly find out why someone enters misfortune or personal tragedy and why it happened to him. We, the people, in our limited power of judgment, encounter many injustices in this world but the one that ordered everything on the highest level knows why it happened to the people in that way. It is never known for sure if, and when, the one that visits the sick and who is armed with doctor's profession will be a future patient, so the people of science and world knowledge are ontologically turned to prayers and heaven because all the knowledge of this world is not enough to win personal transience and every evil disease. A wise man knows that flight, knowledge, titles, vanity and laugh can disappear in a moment. A man is a being that should be loved.

3 (The Holy Gospel According to John, 11, 44).

4 „Christian belief means to be put to the meaning which carries me and the world, to take it as a strong foundation on which I can stand without fear. Christian faith means possibility for the things that cannot be visual and which is more real than visual things“. J. Ratzinger, *Uvod u kršćanstvo*, Zagreb, 1978.

5 „Every man, if really wants to be a man, is directed to the violation of the immanent laws of human existence. He cannot be satisfied only with the questions and answers of science, techniques and empirical experience. But by that, we do not want to say that those questions are not important. On the contrary! With life and death in question, science and techniques do not have any answer. Basic questions of human existence cannot be dealt with by any "rational insight", logical cognition or modern technical computers...“ *Enciklopedija političke kulture*, editor Milan Matic, Savremena administracija, Beigrade, 1993. p. 974.

6 Whenever we remove from the light of faith we pass through sideways, whenever we are on the height of holy's road the heaven smiles at us and the arc of God's light touches us. Something that is called a miracle and an amazing case by the scientists, the faithful know that it is through God's thought and that God allows what seems impossible to the people because, what we discover in science and what does not exist in nature and it is for our thought, view, knowledge still unknown, hidden and dark and whose light can solve the secret and show the discovery way, is a God's mercy. The one, who did not reach the wisdom of centuries and secrets of the Existence, can claim that science and faith are something that is separated, because what is on the surface different, we know, that is in its depth harmonic and appropriate, deeply in concordance, like the light and darkness, thought and faith, flight and pit, abyss and cord, sword and feather, medicine and poison, life and death.

7 Not only is God a mystery to a man, a secret but a man is also a mystery to himself: "how can our little human mind understand how God directs the world?...we should not understand God's thoughts, but to confide in God's mercy and goodness" (Max Rosler, *The secret of happiness*).

eminent person. That is why this world is searching for a new Christ-like love, which will give an honest hope that we are not in a certain fall and forever diving. „We are already living in the society deprived of the last pieces of memory on true Christian values and norms“⁸. With every step, philosophy, ethics and Christianity are suppressed and the cruel rule of bare power is introduced.

A man of today is multiply alienated, the sense of life is becoming a mass of material richness, it is important *to have not to be* as From emphasized. If the doctors and all the others who have an extraordinary social profession defend the position that, it is because our world (which goes ahead the time of ‘black’ utopias) is made of the light of richness⁹ and not lit by the faith, hope and love, they would act as the soldiers who complained that they must be defeated in their place, and that if they were given some other place, they would be winners. But we are the people who have no other place of duration and a better time than our time. We are thrown into reality, which is given to us and forever ordered. Because of that we must do deeds here and now, with reference to our human mission, as if it is the most valuable time and the best place of our choice.

Material greediness, spirit laziness, chained by vices and human slavery to money¹⁰, are the biggest obstacles to true knowledge and strong faith, because the one, who enjoys the fields of sweetness, imprisons a valuable thought in enjoyments of the day and alluring happiness and never reaches transparent cliffs of eternal honour, lasting discoveries and heavenly faith. Some people find it difficult to understand and accept that we, the people, are not sent to this world to enjoy but to serve, to accomplish a human and God’s mission, as a soldier that does not go to war out of spite and happiness but to save the most valuable in every war, the freedom of the people and peace in society. A true doctor with his self-initiative, persistent efforts and constant self-development in spiritual and scientific sense saves the health of the sick and in that way accomplishes his human debt to the society, eminent teachers of science and hard-working doctor’s experience. In front of the doctor’s door, every being leaves all his vanities and importance, real or fancied, and prays for hope in personal salvation, because a doctor is, as the Indian proverb says for the sick: “both a mother, a father, a friend and a teacher”. Because of the fact that a doctor’s profession is so important for the community¹¹, does that mean that a doctor, as a very valuable member of the society, can behave irresponsibly, in a tired way, vainly and proudly, without love or, God

forbid, doing some evil¹², or great doctors acquire their undying glory helping the unfortunate and seriously sick? A human soul and body doctor must first win the hardest victory, the fight against his weaknesses¹³, fight against close colleagues, the subordinates and the patients who constantly flatter him, excessively admire and present him some presents. A human being is prone to fall, spoil and fail because of higher goal of goodness to stay in balance of creative spirit and necessary modesty to strengthen further his knowledge, doctor’s skills and human wisdom. The flight without effort, self-correction and God’s mercy is a dangerous one. Self-satisfaction and the absence of critical measures lead to stagnation and fall because when a man is asleep then imprisoned weaknesses and numerous deficiencies are immediately awakened and then work becomes not the mission and a profession but a job, the sick become the numbers and the people with their misfortunes and illnesses become a necessary norm that must be accomplished. A doctor is a bright hope to the sick that must never disappear because he is often the last face that a man meets in our valley of tears. A doctor must, like an experienced soldier who left behind him many hard combats, be always on the lookout of human dignity and love when the others lose faith and strength in spirit and body. He must always be ready to finish his social tasks and human profession and when the people cheat on him and his colleagues do not follow him properly and when the sick are irrational, nervous and impatient and when all is against his efforts: the sickness, the patients, people from the other professions, poverty in medicine and loss of power of science, he must be constantly strong, be a safe steersman of the ship whom the sick and the hopeless look at, because what the desperate passengers will do in life if the light, hope and faith in the first steersman disappears? A doctor combats human illnesses and especially death that can never be overcome but as a man of profession and mission he must never lose himself because his victory is in constant strength and love toward the people who pray him for hope and salvation of being cured. That is where the true importance of doctor’s profession is, and his profession is in the community.¹⁴ Persistent, honest, modest and decisive in, what is from the beginning clear to him, that death of specific beings cannot be overcome, not to accept as a terrible judgement but as a challenge and the cross that a doctor’s profession and mission take in the world of created beings.¹⁵ Then the doctors are heroes

8 Đuro Šušnjić, *Orvelijana*, Čigoja, Belgrade, 1999. p. 6.

9 „Adam lost his faith in heaven, Job strengthened his faith on the field. The prophet Ilijah never said: hunger is a problem for me to serve God! Nor the Emperor David said: a crown is a problem to serve God!“ Nikolaj Velimirović, *Misli o dobru i zlu*, Art Print, Novi Sad, 1999. p.69.

10 We, the people, are fallen in our daily weakness, think that armed with acquired and passing knowledge that are given to us by the elderly and wiser than us, can dearly sell to those that are in distress, but can that be done only by knowledge, skills and the mission. Of course, a man must rely on his hard work but then that crosses the permitted limit and the doctor begins to be a slave to the light of bare power and dirty money. Does the growing power and a mass of richness to anyone of the created people bring lasting happiness and spiritual harmony because if that was not possible for the powerful Solomon does that mean that it will be possible to the ordinary people. The fair Jov said: I was naked coming out of the mother’s womb, I will also be naked to return“ (Job. 1, 21). If we present our gifts, knowledge and talents to the others only then will our soul reach the heaven and cosmic disproportional limits of sense. It was well said by the bishop Nikolaj that we cannot serve God not serving the people and that we cannot serve the people not serving the God. Our time forgot the elevation of serving the other people and the heaven ideals.

11 In society every member could behave in absolutely liberal, even to the community a bad, way, that is why society tries to establish and keep general norms using culture by which it wants to influence useful and proper acts and to prevent bad, improper and useless behaviour of the members.

12 „When it is heard about an intelligent man that he did some bad, the same question appears on every mouth: how could he know unlimited things and he did not know two main things: to be afraid of God and respect the people?“ Nikolaj Velimirović, *Misli o dobru i zlu*, Art Print, Novi Sad, 1999. p.48.

13 How can a doctor behave in the world that forgets love, faith, hope and wisdom and respects only power that brings material things? Eminent doctors every day start a day with love to the diseased and sick who want hope and pray for the salvation of mind and body. It is not easy for the doctors in today’s world. It is not difficult to be an ascetic in poverty or a servile servant in the empire of non-liberty but to resist the temptations when rich presents are around the man and then he should be devoted to that working to help people in God’s glory.

14 The search itself is the most important but what for that search is, what it contributes to and whether it makes human strengths stronger to Truth, Goodness and Love. Only God knows who holds up the world from all of us because our measures are weak and often the view is vague and short-sighted especially when we are fascinated by transient glory and the gifts of the earth.

15 Meša Selimović in his book *Tvrđava* says: „... There are many secrets that we cannot even approach not to say discover. And maybe the biggest secret is death, a secret and a terrible thing. And when we do not think of it, death is thinking of us. Death is waiting for us on every corner, always being unprepared and everything that was is not anymore.... And behind that terrible fate there is unknown darkness. You know the end, and you do not know anything about it. You cannot reconcile to it, and you cannot change anything. It is not happening according to our will... It must be that life exists by some higher norm, and not only by some nonsense, evil and madness...“

of our time and then they are on one step from being the immortal of the century and human kind. A man is a giant, a hero and has moral importance only when he fights, completely knowing that all the fights are not possible to be overcome nor that death can be forever won, respecting the truth that the victories and defeats are part of a human life arena. A doctor, gifted with knowledge, skills and faith uses those different tools in the best and the most considerate way for the goodness of all the sick and the healthy of the community, doing good to people with love that is the best God's measure. Bishop Nikolaj says to all of us in his book *Misli o dobru i zlu*: "All your acts that you do, not in the name of heaven and without heaven's permission will bring a bad result...Whatever you try to do, listen to the heaven's advice. Whatever you weave, attach the string to heaven." May God bless the wise and the doctors – God's envoys on the earth.

Conflict of interest

We declare no conflicts of interest.

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