

UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

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To Basarab Nicolescu, at 70

Dear Basarab,

First let me convey to you my congratulations and best wishes for your 70th birthday! And for the best years that are in front of you.

As a fellow physicist who discovered an interest in the topics that connect science with other forms of spirituality I should like to express my appreciation for your pioneering contributions in this field. I admit that - during my professional career, I was not even aware of all the tensions and controversies, still present after many centuries of co-existence and mutual enrichment of science and other forms of spirituality. Not that, like many scientists, I intentionally ignored these open questions surrounding scientific research and results, but intimately I adopted an attitude of complementarity and dialogue.

Only in contact with the people like you, I realized how important is this topic, how wide open is this territory surrounding science in its all manifestations, how full of interesting and provoking questions, not excluding more or less violent confrontations and strong feelings. And this is one of the main reasons for my admiration - you not only recognized the importance of a scientist's engagement in the clarification of these questions, but were brave enough to leave a relatively safe position of a successful theoretical physicist and enter a new field full of uncertainties.

Namely, we all know how tough and unsatisfactory is the life and work of a physicist, full of painful efforts to unravel the secrets of nature, to create and justify new hypotheses and theories, with only rare moments of bliss and euphoria and personal satisfaction. But it is still much easier than entering the "minefield" which - unfortunately - divides rather than unites science and other forms of spirituality. Mutual understanding and successful communication are an exception rather than a rule. Together with many others, I admire your brave decision to enter this field and contribute to it by developing the idea and practice of transdisciplinarity. You started virtually alone but gradually involved many people with similar interests, attracted by your personal kindness and friendship.

Happy birthday, Basarab, and many many returns!

Marijan Sunjic

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