

UDK:929ЈОВАНОВСКИ, К.

IN MEMORIAM

MAN AND MEANING: OH THE LIFE AND WORK OF PROFESSOR
KOLE JOVANOVSKI (1945-2020)

On August 28, 2020, our philosophical community lost one of its most prominent representatives – Prof. Dr. Kole Jovanovski retired full professor at the Institute of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Professor Jovanovski left a very significant philosophical legacy, specifically in the fields of Philosophical Anthropology, Axiology, and Philosophical Terminology. His three most important professional books are related to these philosophical disciplines: *Philosophical Anthropology* [Филозофска антропологија] (2000), *Philosophical Dictionary* [Филозофски речник] (2002) and *The Problem of Meaning* [Проблемот на смислата] (2005).

Professor Kole Jovanovski was born on November 26, 1945, in the village of Stepance, near Kumanovo. His entire research and teaching activity is inextricably linked with the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, within which he has completed his undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies in Philosophy, and then built a very successful scientific and teaching career. With his high scientific achievements in the disciplines that were the area of his narrower interest, as well as with his dedicated teaching activity and the honest and humane attitude towards his colleagues, students, and everyone he met, Professor Jovanovski left an indelible mark, both in the history of the Institute of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and in the wider area of the Macedonian philosophical and intellectual culture in the field of social sciences and humanities.

During his undergraduate studies in Philosophy, which he completed in 1969, Kole Jovanovski was so dedicated that, according to the testimony of his colleague and friend, Professor Mirko Gjoshevski, he received multiple and public praises from his professors. Thus, Professor Mitko Ilievski on one occasion even complained that under the current regime of evaluation of student results he is not able to adequately reward the student Jovanovski for his activity. Therefore, immediately after completing his undergraduate studies, in 1970, Jovanovski was elected as a junior teaching assistant, under the mentorship of Professor Mitko Ilievski, first in the subjects Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophy (general course) and later in the above-mentioned subjects.

What can be mentioned as another interesting fact from the biography of Professor Jovanovski is that he was the first student to complete his postgraduate studies in Philosophy at the Institute of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. He defended his master's thesis, entitled *Marx's concept of human needs*, in 1985. His many years of research efforts invested in the study of the problem of philosophical anthropology culminated in the defense of his

doctoral dissertation, *The Problem of Meaning in Yugoslav Philosophy*, at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje in 1989.

From the academic and philosophical engagement and work of Professor Kole Jovanovski, it can be concluded that during his career he was mostly preoccupied with three philosophical questions: 1) the problem of man, considered from a philosophical-anthropological perspective (his mortality, the meaning of human existence, alienation, the position of man in the universe and his relation to the absolute, the existence and quality of man, human freedom and responsibility and many others); 2) the question of value, articulated through axiology as a philosophical discipline; 3) the extremely complex problem of articulation of philosophical ideas and concepts, which belongs to the philosophical-lexical-semantic discipline of philosophical terminology. It seems that this last venture was the most difficult and the most challenging one because Professor Jovanovski was constantly preoccupied with finding and inventing new terms and expressions from the modest vocabulary of the Macedonian language, which, according to him, could most appropriately express some philosophical ideas and notions. Because of this, his style of speaking and writing has sometimes been difficult to understand, not only for his students but also for his colleagues at the Institute of Philosophy. Nevertheless, it should be noted that no philosophical tradition was built without undertaking such a philosophical rethinking of the existing vocabulary. Philosophy is a kind of vocation/science/lifestyle that simply requires rethinking of everything that until then was considered defined, established, and standardized. If nothing else, it is enough to refer to the existentialist and poststructuralist tradition of the 20th century to be convinced of this conclusion. In that regard, the contribution of Professor Jovanovski is pioneering and is an incentive for all of us, his successors, to try to continue it and upgrade it as much as we can.

Since this review of the intellectual and academic engagement of Professor Kole Jovanovski would be too long if we move on to listing all of the philosophical and scientific papers he has published in his professional career (more than 100), now, in the end, we will turn to the most important topics and philosophers that he researched during his working life.

In his numerous works, Professor Jovanovski wrote on the following philosophical topics: the subject of philosophical anthropology, alienation, objectification, human essence, the meaning and value of existence, man's attitude to his work, human needs, self-government, the demise of the state, axiology, philosophical terminology, etc. In his other papers, dedicated to individual philosophers and their views related to philosophical anthropology, axiology, and terminology, Professor Jovanovski, in his research, referred to the following thinkers: Democritus, René Descartes, George Berkeley, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Arthur Schopenhauer, Auguste Comte, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Wilhelm Windelband, Ernst Cassirer, Max Scheler, Nicolai Hartmann, Martin Heidegger, Rudolph Carnap, Herbert Marcuse, Albert Camus, Paul Ricœur, etc.

This was an overview of the most important aspects of the academic and scientific career of Professor Kole Jovanovski. Of course, many other testimonies for his dedication to the professional philosophical engagement could be added. However, in the end, it remains to point out an essential need and task to be done. The numerous scattered works of Professor Jovanovski (published in various collections, scientific journals, etc.) should be collected, edited, and published in one or more volumes, as one of the ways to give due respect to our esteemed professor and to his work.

Vangel Nonevski

