

BOOK REVIEW

About ourselves and about others

Valeriu Anania and Aurel Sasu

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Replacing the arid and distant interview with an almost friendly academic conversation, this is what are trying to create, Valeriu Anania and Aurel Sasu in the book 'About ourselves and about others'. In the light of freedom, with an admirable clarity, Valeriu Anania answers to Aurel Sasu's questions, about the difficulties encountered in life, about the personalities with impact in his existence and not least, about the faith in God.

As the title indicates, the book is meant to be 'a bunch' of more experiences lived by Valeriu Anania, which include other people with the same moral values or which strongly influenced him. Such an experience is Valeriu Anania's sentencing policy by the communist authorities between years 1958-1964. Sentenced to 25 years of hard labor for 'conspiracy against social order', the current Archbishop of Vad, Feleac and Cluj presents those years of imprisonment connected to present, without losing himself in many detailed memories.

Asked by Aurel Sasu, which is his opinion about the loneliness and the effects of loneliness, Valeriu Anania says that 'the man can not be alone as long as he feels with him, his loneliness'. This statement leads to his immense faith in the divine presence everywhere, but also to his 'way to escape', in moments of solitude, through literature.

Valeriu Anania's immense love for the art of words is, according to his confession, the impulse which brought him closer to one of the famous figures in his life, Tudor Arghezi. Therefore, the book presents the way in which the work of the great writer entered in Valeriu Anania's heart, 'a young monk at the Antim Monastery' at the time, how he perceived him over time, but also episodes in their lives. It is observed a certain protection from the Metropolitan of Cluj for the poet, this behaviour, indicating the great affection and the esteem for him. We can assume that the presence of Tudor Arghezi in the interviewee's life has extremely influenced his literary activity.

The last part of the book includes questions and answers about Valeriu Anania's work in literature. He said in closing the interview: 'yes, words have a soul and with them we should behave like the angels behave with Virgin Mary'. In this response we discover all important factors in Valeriu Anania's life: the faith in God, the love for words and the respect for both.

Dr. Alice Rusu