

Interview in the "Ponedelnik" Program

Respected viewers, I would like to introduce a new social organization emerging in Moscow. Often we see the birth of new movements, new parties, new clubs, and associations.

I think that today's interview will arouse your interest, with our topic of "What can man do to become a Human Being?"

We have tried to reflect on this, but with little success. And suddenly there arrives in Moscow a person who has dealt with this issue for many years: Mario Rodriguez, a philosopher and author from Argentina. They may call him a "farmer" in Argentina, because he lives in an agricultural region, raising grain... but in addition to all this, he also reflects on humanism and how to make humanism the center of human life.

He has a pen name, Silo, and according to what I've been told, this name is apt since it is connected with agriculture. So, Mario Rodriguez has come to visit us, through his links with the Club of Humanist Initiatives led by Professor Boris Koval, which endeavors to inspire Muscovites with the idea of humanizing themselves. And to do this it has already developed certain techniques, instructions, if we can call them that. In any case, they have a program: "What can man do to become a Human Being?"

As we are about to discover, Mario and I are practically contemporaries. We are people of the same generation. But the word "international" makes me tense, while he, in contrast, likes it very much. For us all things international are scary, even when referring to the Humanist International, as this booklet is entitled. Our life today in Russia is difficult to understand.

Announcer: Perhaps you could tell us how it is that man may become a Human Being.

Silo: I have not come to Moscow to proclaim any idea - quite the contrary...

On the contrary. I and a group of friends have come to learn from a very interesting process, one very unique in history. From new experiences that are being created. I am sure that these experiences will inspire other parts of the world, other places.

Announcer: Our experiences of humanization can be of use, too?

Silo: Absolutely. And about this we have had a discussion with Muscovite friends. I personally think that events here are happening much more rapidly than in other parts of the world.

Announcer: You're an Argentine Rousseau, who educates your children, living together with nature, I can understand how you can humanize your life. But we, here, where everything is so complicated and still bloody, how can we humanize life here?

Silo: It looks to me, in my humble opinion, that respect for the particularities of every person, of every political tendency, and every place, is the first condition of coexistence. In any case, I think, there has to be a general framework for all these differences. Humanism would be happy if people from different political views could hold discussions on the basis of the most general ideas about the human being. Humanism does not claim to be a political force.

Announcer: Perhaps Professor Koval can give us his interpretation of our experience here, of humanization.

B. Koval: I believe that the thought, the work of Silo, and the work of the Humanist Movement in general, poses a different challenge: It gives each person the possibility to take a little distance from concrete politics, from practical economy, from a concrete ideology -- to be first and foremost a human being. We communicate with each other, we look each other in the eye, we respect each other, we work in harmony, and we do something together. For us this is not easy because politics tends to divide people, social contradictions divide the people. Humanists want something else.

Announcer: But how many attempts have there been, Boris? Where does your conviction come from that it is this call to good in life that is going to succeed?

Silo: I do not believe that we are guaranteed success. Our proposal is a bit idealistic. But we must recognize that we also need a bit of idealism. There are already many people who give concrete solutions. There are already specialists in many different things. And it's good there are...

Announcer: There are few idealists.

Announcer: In a word, Mario wants to remind us that in each of us there is also an idealist who can translate his idealism into something concrete, something good. What can we say, this is very much needed here. And we trust that in some way something idealistic is preserved in us.

And finally, we must inform our viewers, those who have been interested in our conversation, how they can connect with the Club of Humanist Initiatives.

B. Koval: Yes, our Club is a small organization, for now limited to academic institutes. I, for example, work as deputy director of the Institute of Political Science, Russian Academy of Sciences. Many other scientists, some young and some not so young, are also involved as are students from different universities, medical students, etc. We would be very pleased if you are interested in these ideas. You can connect with the Institute of Political Science of the Russian Academy of Sciences, with me personally.

Announcer: All the idealistic Muscovites.

B. Koval: Of humanistic orientation.

Announcer: So I congratulate Mario, for the good cause that leads you forward. I envy your children who live there next to nature. And I wish you all the best.

Silo: I want to thank you and the public. And we have hope that in Russia very good things will come for everyone. Because everyone is looking to Moscow. And the fate of the world depends on the fate of people here.

Announcer: We trust that this will happen. In any case, we will make our contribution in this regard. Thank you!

Silo: Thank you