

Professori Ljubinkae Basotovae
IN MEMORIAM

**Brevis nobis vita data est, at memoria bene redditae vitae
sempiterna.** (Cic. *Phill.*14)

*Short is the life which nature has given us, but the memory of a
life nobly spent is everlasting*

Ljubinka Basotova, PhD, professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, a renowned classical philologist, pedagogue, scholar, an eminent translator of classical languages, passed away this year, on 18 June 2020. In memory of her fulfilled life and versatile professional career, let us briefly reflect on the contribution and efforts that professor Ljubinka Basotova made for the Macedonian scientific, cultural and education community with her numerous works, research papers, translations, verse translations and textbooks, as well as her scholarly and pedagogical engagement. Even though the focal points in which her exquisite intellectual capacity manifested were mainly in science, translation and teaching, which by their nature, and in case her particularly, are inextricably interlaced in the best way possible, professor Basotova also had erudition and enthusiasm to be committed and successful in other social activities. This sad occasion and tradition call for focusing first on the usual facts of the professor's professional biography.

Ljubinka Basotova, PhD, was born in Skopje on 15 October 1934, in a family of typographers, which she proudly mentioned. She completed her primary and secondary education – classic gymnasium, in Skopje, where in 1959 she also graduated from the Department of Classical Philology at the Faculty of Philosophy and Philology at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University. She completed her post-graduate studies at the Institute of History at the Faculty of Philosophy in 1985, with a post-graduate thesis titled *The Chronicles of Priest Dukljanin as a Source to Research Macedonian Medieval History*, while she completed her doctoral studies in 1993 at the same faculty with the defence of the doctoral dissertation on the topic *Latinisms in the Macedonian Language*. Professor Ljubinka Basotova started working as a teacher immediately after her graduation in 1959 in the secondary medical school, as a teacher of Latin, while in 1961 she continued her career at the Faculty of Philosophy, where she was elected an assistant in Latin at the Department of Classical Philology. In 1972 she was appointed lector and in 1978 a lecturer at the same department. In 1982 she gets the title of senior lecturer and in 1994 associate professor in normative Latin grammar. In 1999 Ljubinka Basotova was elected a full professor at the In-

stitute of Classical Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy. As a university teacher she taught the subjects of Latin Morphology and Latin Syntax for the students at the Institute of Classical Studies and the subject Latin Language for the students at the institutes of history, art history with archaeology, as well as for the students of Romance languages and literature and the students of general and comparative literature at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. In addition to her pedagogical and scientific work at the Faculty of Philosophy, Basotova was also head of the Institute of Classical Studies (two terms), vice dean of academic affairs, vice chairperson of the Faculty Council, etc. Professor Basotova was also involved in the organization of numerous national and international scientific gatherings, which established and developed the international cooperation of the Institute of Classical Studies and the Faculty of Philosophy.

Professor Basotova's longstanding scientific work has been presented in various scientific papers, articles and supplements, published in scientific and professional magazines (*Živa Antika*, *Annuaire of the Faculty of Philosophy*, *Proceedings of the Institute of Old Slavonic Literature*, *Supplements by the Macedonian Academy of Arts and Sciences MANU*, *Systasis*), cultural magazines (*Portal*, *Stremež*, *Sovremenost*), lectures and papers in proceedings from international and national symposia, congresses and scientific meetings (Croatia, Serbia, Italy, Russia, Greece). The subject of professor Basotova's scientific interest were not only topics from classical philology, but she incorporated her competences in her primary scientific discipline in interdisciplinary research which shed light on problems and issues in history, literature, Macedonian linguistics. In several of her linguistic papers prof. Basotova writes about the penetration, presence and phonetic, morphological and semantic adaptation of Latin lexemes in the Macedonian language. For a long time she researched the reception and the impact of ancient literature and culture on authors from the period of Macedonian Renaissance (Djinot, Prichev). In addition to her postgraduate thesis, she contributed to Macedonian culture with works on Medievalism, Cyril and Methodius, as well as with her translations of Latin and Byzantine sources for researching Macedonian medieval history, published in individual volumes (*Documents about the history of the Macedonian people*, the *Veljusa* monograph, *Testimonies about Cyril and Methodius* – co-authored with professor R. Ugrinova, etc.). Professor Basotova also authored two books with the aim of promoting Classics: one is a selection of proverbs, quotes and phrases from the treasure trove of Roman cultural heritage titled *Breves vibrantesque sententiae* (*Brief Vibrant Thoughts*), published in 2003, while the second one is *Ancient Myths* (2010).

Professor Ljubinka Basotova was known to the wider cultural audiences in Macedonia primarily as an author of numerous exceptionally successful translations and verse translations from Latin and Ancient Greek of works from the Dreek and Roman cultural riches. With dedication, passion and talent worthy of respect, she worked tirelessly for decades to accomplish her mission to promote classical literary traditions in our country through translation and

verse translation from Ancient Greek and Latin, as well as the Macedonian language as a target language that has the capacity to translate and capture the aesthetic dignity of the works by the foremost thinkers and artists from Ancient and Medieval culture. These prose and verse translations are veritable monuments to the aesthetic expressive possibilities of our language. Thanks to the exceptional translating endeavours by professor Basotova, iconic works that are the foundations of European literary, philosophical and scientific traditions have been published in Macedonian: historiographic writings by Tacitus, Caesar, Justin, Curtius Rufus and Barleti; the scientific (philosophical, theological) and expert tracts or speeches by Cicero, Vitruvius, Augustine Erasmus Roterdamus, Cyprian. However, professor Basotova's most recognizable and creative artistic efforts are the thousands of poetry verses she translated into Macedonian in the original verse meter: Sophocles' plays, *Aeneid* and *Eclogae* by Virgil, *Metamorphoses* and *Heroides* by Ovid, *Ars Poetica* by Horace, *De Rerum Natura* by Lucretius, and selection of *Roman Poetry*. With this library of outstanding translations, which set new, high standards and values for the translation from Classical languages in the country, professor Ljubinka Basotova inspired many of her younger colleagues, students and associates, which in the last three decades resulted in a considerable number of published translations and verse translations from Latin and Ancient Greek into Macedonian.

Professor Basotova was always willing to give her students, younger colleagues and associates inspiration, encouragement and incentive. Her lectures were always inspirational, peppered with mythology, historical realia, sententiae and quotes by Roman authors, discussions and practical exercises that can be conceived only by a teacher with superb erudition and encyclopaedic knowledge. Basotova manifested her commitment to younger scholars and qualified classical philologists not only as a professor, but also as a conscientious mentor to various graduation, master and doctoral theses. She contributed greatly to the development and promotion of Latin language classes not only on university level, but in secondary schools too, as well as textbook production, by being member in committees for developing curricula and syllabi, and by authoring several Latin textbooks. Numerous generations of high school students have benefited from these textbooks thanks to the successfully selected methodological approach, while the diverse content enriched their linguistic knowledge, general culture and literacy. Her continued commitment to affirmation and advancement of teaching and young people's level of knowledge in Classical languages professor Basotova also expressed through her selfless involvement in organizing annual national competitions in Latin and Ancient Greek, which grew into a tradition of more than fifty years. For this reason, in honour of her pioneering work and dedication, the Association of Classical Philologists *Antika* awarded professor Basotova a special certificate of appreciation.

Professor Basotova always had the energy and will for a variety of social activities, including as chairperson or member in various associations, bodies,

cultural events and civil society organisations. She was chairperson of the Association of classical philologists of Macedonia (two terms), vice president and member of the Presidency of the Union of foreign language associations (several terms), president of the steering committee of the international association *Makedonski duhovni konaci* and editor of the culture and science magazine *Portal*. Professor Basotova was also member of different committees in the Ministry of Culture, honorary member of the Writers' Association of Macedonia, member of several friendship associations between Macedonia and other friendly countries (Russia, Ukraine, France, Croatia) and member of the executive board of the Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women in RM (ECE).

For her scientific, translation, pedagogical and social engagement and achievements professor Basotova won numerous awards and recognitions: medal with a silver star, awarded by the President of SFRY (1981), the *Vangja Cashule* award for the translation from Latin of *De Civitate Dei* by Augustine (1997), the *Grigor Prlichev* award for the verse translation from Latin of *Aeneid* by Virgil (1999). For her oeuvre as a translator she was awarded the *Kiril Pejchinovikj* prize (2001) and the same year the Association of Literary Translators awarded her the prize of *Master of Literary Translation*. She also won the 30 September charter in honour of the UNESCO International Translation Day. In 2006 she won the highest state award, the *11 October* prize, while in 2011 she won the award *13 November* of the City of Skopje.

Professor Ljubinka Basotova left an indelible mark on the Macedonian academic and cultural scene, with that mark being deepest in the institution where she worked, the Faculty of Philosophy, in particular the Institute of Classical Studies, in the history of classical philology in the country, which she also created as a member of the second generation of classical philologists. With her works, as Horace says in his verses that Basotova translated beautifully in Macedonian, she erected a "monument more lasting than bronze" and earned respect and a deserving place in the memories of her students, associates and colleagues. The last meeting with her colleagues, which Basotova always happily attended, was on 20 November 2019 for the promotion of the Proceedings *Exegi monumentum aere perennius*, published in honour of Elena Koleva, Ljubinka Basotova and Danica Chadikovska, on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of their birth, as a special edition of the *Systatis* magazine. And since *Vitae brevis est cursus, gloriae sempiternus* (Cic. *Pro Sest.* 47): Eternal glory, Professor!