

## IN MEMORIAM JÁNOS BALOGH, THE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

ISTVÁN KLINGHAMMER

*Rector of the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest*

This is the scientific session where we are paying our homage to the knowledgeable scholar whose entire life work, by virtue of his inherent nature, involved service.

JÁNOS BALOGH, academician, professor and head of department lived a full and meaningful life. His man's heart had enough room for his family, profession, science, and – more than natural for all of us who knew him – love that embraced our entire homeland.

The example of his life suggests that science is not just a job, a profession, let alone a sheer title, but more than anything, an ethos: a kind of life attitude. Therefore the university is doing a good job if it can transfer not just expertise but also this particular attitude coupled with it, and can educate people who are characterised by respect to reality but will always have the critical inclination to ask questions, a critical attitude, i.e. the gist of every scientific quality, the inner independence that is always ready to contemplate. And why? The explanation is that thinking people can be educated by thinking people only.

Being a man of deep erudition, he exerted his influence not just by the power of words but also through his strictly moralist way of living and relentless sense of duty, as well.

Universities involve a society inside the society. By reference to PÁZMÁNY's university founder's admonition: one should always crave for making things better. And good human quality involves the most valuable guarantee of betterment. Let me use the example of Professor JÁNOS BALOGH for sharing some thoughts with you.

Tolerance is an important component of our unwritten Code of university behaviour, not to be mistaken for unprincipled listlessness, and democracy that is worth attaining even against those who do not care for it or those who abuse it.

We must defend the right to exception. We are different. Nothing else but the good human quality can make a difference, can make us take advantage of the right to being an exception. Every cause is private and, at the same time, public, as well. Close attention must be paid to individual matters because individuals are important, just like the public matter hidden in it. Our university must protect and serve good human quality that – as GOETHE put it – takes its self-development seriously, and never stops working on ennobling itself.

Providence endowed Professor BALOGH with the gifts of the soul and gave him the opportunity of serving the public good. He professed with St. PAUL: "*Thou are given the gifts of soul for being useful*". To be useful for the narrower and

broader environment, the university and the Academy – to be of use for the big community out there, the Hungarian life.

As given by the example of the knowledgeable professor: the big society imposed the obligation of rendering a human-oriented service and asserting our researcher's knowledge on our small society (the world of the Academy).

This is the example I take with me as a student of the Professor, the honorary doctor of Eötvös Loránd University, and I feel rich.