

VYACHESLAV STEPIN

1934 – 2018



On December 14, 2018, passed away Vyacheslav Semenovich Stepin, Advisory Editor of the journal WISDOM, Deputy Academician-Secretary of the UN RAS, Honorary Director of the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, President of the Russian Philosophical Society, Laureate of the State Prize of the Russian Federation, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences. V. Stepin was not only the greatest scientist, an outstanding organizer of science, but also an excellent lecturer, creator of a scientific school, who became the great master for several generations of philosophers in Russia. His concept of theoretical knowledge and types of scientific rationality, the concept of a post-non-classical scientific picture of the world give the most holistic view of the history of development, the prospects of technological civilization and have received universal recognition.

While studying at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Belarusian State University in Minsk, he simultaneously studied theoretical physics at the Faculty of Physics, which allowed him to be a high professional in the philosophy of natural science, to cooperate on an equal footing and discuss the problems of physics with its out-

standing representatives. He professionally mastered the history of culture, the theory of artistic creativity and architecture, which allowed many years later to create the concept of post-non-classical science, including not only positivistic, but also general cultural discourses, contributed to the dialogue of two cultures in the framework of the philosophy of science, and helped to create the concept worldview universals of culture and types of civilizational development.

The name of V. Stepin is connected with the transformation of the Institute of Philosophy from an ideological institution into a truly scientific institute. Becoming Director of the Institute in 1988, V. Stepin introduced democratic governance principles. Being a director of an academic institute in one of the most difficult periods of the existence of the Academy of Sciences, he was an example of a scientist fully dedicated to his work. With the example of his everyday work, V. Stepin set the standards for the academic work of the learned philosopher. Regardless of what post he held in the academic hierarchy, he never stopped research work and for years kept teaching at Moscow State University after Lomonosov.

A man of crystal honesty, having accepted for himself the ethical norms of a scientist-philosopher, he followed them rigorously until the last days. His whole life was connected with the philosophy and history of science. He is the author of a large number of books, articles, one of the organizers of the New Philosophical Encyclopedia. It is difficult to imagine the development of Russian philosophy of the last 40 years without the influence of his works. His work on the methodology of science became

known to all scientists and philosophers and became models of philosophical creativity from the days when he was an associate professor of the department of philosophy in Minsk. He developed an original concept of the philosophy of culture and put forward a number of constructive ideas on social philosophy, which were used in scientific and wider public discourse.

A man of fine intelligence, he was at the same time a very devoted and reliable friend, always helping people not only within the framework of scientific work but also in any oth-

er field.

The death of great academician is an irreplaceable loss for the whole philosophical community.

The Armenian Philosophical Society, particularly the Editorial Board of the journal WISDOM has rich traditions of cooperation with Academician V. Stepin and the organizations headed by him, as well as very bright memories.

We grieve this great loss. Vyacheslav Stepin will remain in our memory forever.

Editorial Board of the journal WISDOM