

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A TEACHER...

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Motto:

*”Supreme art of the teacher...
is to awaken the joy of creative expresion
and joy of knowledge”*

Albert Einstein

Abstract: *Being a teacher is a great responsibility. This job can not make by anyone and anyway.*

This is because the teacher works with a lot of souls.

This article attempts to demonstrate the importance of teacher work, but also need to promote the trades among young people.

Keywords: *teacher, value, art, duty, morality.*

Results from baccalaureate exam this year have raised teachers' guilt. The eyes of the parents and of the Ministry of Education were directed to the hundreds of teachers who teach in high school, but also to all teachers in Romania. There were voices risen denigrating the category of teachers and they said that the teachers do not produce anything concrete anyway, so, education does not deserve funded. I wondered if there is really such a fault. Is the teacher the only culprit of these results? But, what does mean to be a teacher?

Being a teacher... Is this a trade like any other? No! This is because a teacher does not work with wood, metal, construction materials, hemp... He/she works with souls! Therefore he/she can not allow scrap, debris thrown away or wasted time. That is because the time no longer goes back and disposed soul remains there, no matter what you try then to fix the mistake.

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A lot of people believe that being a teacher is only to provide information to the pupils or students, to assess their level and rank them throw the notes. **Teaching profession is much deeper, it requires special skills, which can shape and develop only if the person wants, really, to be professor.**¹ This is because being a teacher means to devote yourself to those who educate the pupils or the students, to have positive feelings toward them, give them your respect, be aware that your influence on their lives and every teacher is responsible for his work in front of parents and, more important: in front of whole society.

A true teacher is thinking not only mastery of discipline, **but first on how can he/she makes the pupil or the student an independent user of what the teacher taught them.**²

There are many people who want to become teachers unless if they can not be good in another job and professorship must be only one of the alternatives. They make a big mistake. Teaching career is not a "raincoat", you have to follow it only if you like it, if you are calling for it, not just when you are refused by life in another jobs. It is true that in many jobs, you are rewarded equally with your effort. In education that is not true, always you give more than you can get. You stay in front of 20-30 or more souls, minds, pairs of eyes and ears, all directed to you and trusted in you.

However, people, unfortunately, feel more secure regarding the certainty and not to knowledge.(Tudorel Butoi) That is why when you get teacher you are not only concerned with teaching, you have more other duties, especially the relations with pupils or students. Thus, you are concerned to "plant" in their hearts some feelings that motivate them to approach learning with more "openness". One of these feelings is **self-confidence**, without the student can not have success in learning. This feeling seems to be more important than IQ. The process of education requires of the pupil or student and, if there is no self-confidence, there is no succes: he stops at each weight and is accused by "bad learning", although the causes are different. Experts have shown that the school "makes" learning, but "its production" is not realize that in other areas. The responsibility is much higher because we, all the teachers, work with people. In the factory, if a piece is wrong, it will be made again. In education, **a lost pupil or student becomes a problem for society**, so all

¹ Vasile Molan - *To be or not to be a teacher* -See:

http://www.tribunainvatamantului.ro/d_art.php?id=614&cat=69

² Ibidem.

eyes are upon the educational system and the requirements for this system are higher. The society appreciate a good teacher if "he/she has many knowledge." This is a sine-qua-non condition for a teacher, but it is very important **how** to exercise the teaching profession, how to transmit what is known, how much students are trained in educational process, how are they transformed into active participants in their own training and education.

A good teacher shapes the minds of those they work with. He formed them, arrange their thinking, he learn them **how**, not **what** to think. For this, every teacher needs not only patience, knowledge and intelligence, but above all, dedication. Nowadays young people are pretentious, perhaps more pretentious than our generation because, unlike us, they provide more information. So, our young people do not need to be given information (because they find themselves on the Internet), they need those people to discover "the treasures" hidden in their souls and bring them to the surface. Then use them to benefit all young people and their country.

Those who are determined to embrace the soul and mind of the profession are expected, but they should not forget that all what they learned in college or faculties is just the beginning. This profession requires lifelong learning, always keeping in mind the words of Nicolae Iorga: "*A century of living, learn a century, but not always in the same class.*"

Being a good teacher means do not forget that you were once young. You need to know to pass over the small mistakes of the learner in a diplomatic way, enjoy them for their successes, encourage and always giving them wings to the future. You have to know to light up in the soul of each pupil or student both the joy of knowledge and joy of creation...