

## **CONTEMPLATIONS IN SOLITUDE**

*(a section from the biobibliographic index  
dedicated to the 65th anniversary of Mykola Ivanovych Pidliachy)*

### ***My sons, Volodymyr and Dmytro!***

*The time will come when silence will speak to you louder than any words. Within it, the mystery of existence is revealed; within it, truth is born—a truth that requires no witness. I believe you will learn to listen to it deeply and attentively.*

*For there is a kind of conversation that takes place beyond human speech—a dialogue with your own heart and spirit. In it, you will come to understand that fears are but shadows retreating before the light of wisdom; that silence may signify not agreement, but dignity; that solitude can become freedom.*

*It is in these reflections, alone with oneself, that a person finds inner wholeness. There, the harmony of the Self is born, the strength of spirit grows, and thought is formed—thought that leads through trials and darkness toward the light.*

*When you discover this inner sanctuary—calm, quiet, and pure—you will feel what I lived by and from what source I drew my inspiration.*

*With this belief, I leave you not only words, but the silence in which they come alive.*

### **The Self**

1. Contemplations in solitude are a conscious process of internal introspection, in which the individual turns to personal experience, values, and cognitive structures in order to gain deeper insight into their own being, to make responsible decisions, and to attain harmony of the Self. Through this process, one critically reevaluates both external and internal influences, reflects on the past, cultivates awareness of the present, and shapes the guiding principles for the future.

Such self-dialogue becomes the foundation of spiritual and cognitive growth, contributes to the refinement of moral and ethical principles, and opens the way for full integration of the individual into social, cultural, and professional life.

2. Human life unfolds as a continuous dialogue – with oneself and with others. Within this dialogue, the moral compass is an ancient principle: "Treat others as you wish to be treated yourself, and do not do to others what you would not want done to

you." This simple phrase holds a profound truth: each of us is both subject and object in relationships. What we offer to others – respect, sincerity, or indifference – inevitably returns to us, shaping the quality of our own existence.

Keeping one's commitments, even when circumstances become unfavorable, is not merely a matter of honor – it is a way to affirm inner strength. The ability to keep one's word reveals the true worth of a person more than any external markers of success. Those who remain faithful to their agreements earn the trust of the wise and discerning; those who break it even once lose their reputation forever. That is why it is only natural to avoid collaboration with those who disregard their word: any relationship built on falsehood and irresponsibility is destined for disappointment.

Another essential mark of ethical conduct is the ability to remain silent. Silence is not always a sign of weakness; on the contrary, it often speaks of wisdom and self-restraint. If, at a given moment, we have nothing to say that would build trust or benefit another, it is better to choose silence.

"Silence is golden" – not because words are unnecessary, but because a well-considered word has power, while empty speech undermines relationships and erodes trust.

Thus, the true ethics of everyday life are built upon three simple yet profound principles:

- treat others as you would yourself;
- keep your commitments even under the most difficult conditions;
- preserve silence where words bring no good.

Within these three rules lies not only the wisdom of personal life but also the foundation of harmonious coexistence in the world.

3. Most of the people God has sent into my life have been remarkable. But to become more meaningful and useful to one another, we must continually grow. On this journey, everything connected to the historical stage of individual and societal development becomes essential.

The basis of personal, collective, and cultural progress is the foundation for harmonization, which in turn becomes the precondition for creating a space open to growth. For such individuals, this mission arises from within and a need to live in alignment with clearly defined values and priorities.

Success on this path means improving the quality of the space in which Life becomes possible. A conscious Human Being is a Creation that cares not only about the proper use of genetic and cultural inheritance but also about enriching their own spiritual and psychophysiological nature. Only through this can one ascend to a higher level of development and pass on the values acquired to future generations.

4. A man should love his chosen one with all his being – creating the conditions for her growth and inner harmony, and protecting her throughout life as he would his most precious treasure.

A wife, in turn, is called to be her husband's friend, partner, lover, companion, and the mother of their children. For whatever they fail to find in one another, they will inevitably seek elsewhere.

The culture of such a relationship is formed in the mother's school and perfected throughout a lifetime.

5. As the personality matures in scientific inquiry, its exploration inevitably leads to critical reflection on previously proposed hypotheses and assumptions. The results obtained may challenge earlier beliefs, transforming not only into a mechanism for verifying knowledge but also into a catalyst for the evolution of scientific thought. Through this process, the individual gradually approaches a more adequate understanding of reality and, at the same time, affirms themselves as an independent bearer of scientific consciousness—capable of recognizing the limits of their understanding, rethinking past judgments, and forming new conceptual approaches to knowing the world.

6. A person who lives with awareness of their own path and aspires to meaningful work should not waste energy or time on those who do not value them. Their true calling is to find wise and open individuals who can help them harmonize their inner being. The values and qualities born of interaction with such people become not only a source of spiritual support but also a modest, yet irreplaceable reward on the journey toward fulfilling one's destiny—granted to each of us within the limited span of earthly life.

7. Kind-hearted and sincere communication, creative work, and fruitful collaboration are not only the foundation for harmonious personal growth and affirming warm interpersonal relationships—they are also the key to preserving the freedom of the spirit in a democratic, multicultural society.

8. There comes a time when the wise eagles withdraw from active life—or even pass into eternity—while the young eaglets have not yet grown strong... And then the sky falls still, empty of flight, while the mountains that once upheld their wings stand in silent despair. Those who remain must find the strength to rise higher on their own, to learn to fly despite the losses, and at the same time to care for those not yet ready to soar. For without support, without the transmission of wisdom and experience, each new generation risks being left without wings—and the legacy of flight may vanish in vain.

9. One of the greatest values in the human environment is the ability to reveal one's inner world only to those worthy and chosen—to enrich the space that allows for growth.

10. Speak sincerely with me—and as far as you are able, by sensing your mind and thoughts, your heart and feelings, your will and bodily strength—I may either draw closer—or drift apart.

11. The multifaceted nature of one's life space shapes the level of "psychological experience" needed for productive engagement within various groups and social strata. The degree of a person's success at every stage of life development largely depends on their active participation in society.

Attending cultural events, engaging in amateur artistic pursuits, hiking, skiing, tennis, swimming, volleyball, football, chess, horseback riding, hunting, fishing,

relaxing in nature, and sincere conversations with the Wise—all of this enables me to feel more deeply and perceive more fully the life space of those whose spirit and values resonate with mine.

12. Do not lay claim to what is not yours, and do not take what you have not earned—for what is rightfully yours in this life will come to you in due time and in Full Measure...

13. My column, “Dialogue of Epochs: Past and Present,” seeks to show how the legacy of historical figures, our contemporaries, and significant phenomena continues to live in the present—helping us discover our identity and deepen our understanding of ourselves, our being, nature, culture, traditions, and thought. In this context, an epoch is viewed as a holistic segment of time marked by specific meanings, values, and achievements that shape the development of the individual, society, civilization, and humanity as a whole.

The main idea of the column is to reveal the integrity of our existence—to show how the past contributes to the present and how the Personality influences the here and now through the transformation of its own achievements and little-known facts. This approach allows us to perceive the present not as a separate era, but as a logical continuation of the past.

### **Society and the State**

14. For centuries, on the lands of Ukraine, older generations have passed down to their descendants the most valuable gifts—love for life, respect for honest labor, and responsibility for preserving the spiritual and material achievements of the community. This unbroken chain of cultural continuity is the living fabric of national identity, a source of vitality, and a guardian of memory—one that must continually evolve and grow richer. History, as a category of experience, is not only the past; it is also a force in the present, shaping humanity’s capacity for harmonious coexistence, wise and responsible living, and defining our right and ability to claim the future.

15. One of the strategic objectives of Ukraine’s contemporary state policy is to foster awareness and accumulate systemic expertise in the theory and practice of personnel policy. This policy is meant not only to address educational, scientific, and industrial needs but also to support the development of the individual’s and society’s spirituality, and to nurture citizens’ creative and professional self-realization. Strengthening human capital is a key factor in economic growth and in expanding gross domestic product; at the same time, it is a vital tool for bolstering the country’s defense capabilities. In this way, personnel policy reflects the profound interconnection between spiritual development, social responsibility, and the security of the Ukrainian national community.

16. Labor is a source of harmony between the spiritual and physical aspects of the human being. It serves as a means of self-expression and self-affirmation, a primary form of sustaining life and realizing one’s personal potential. The stages of personal growth through labor are achieved in the process of forming multifaceted

“psychological experience,” often through interaction with Teachers and Mentors—when work becomes conscious and purposeful, aimed at creating socially valuable material and spiritual assets.

In this process, societal institutions play a critical role in accompanying the individual’s development—from basic self-care to the creation of productive work that meets real needs. This reflects a gradual transition from individual self-sufficiency to contributing to the gross domestic product of Ukraine as a cornerstone of its national security.

17. Despite their relatively small numbers, representatives of oligarchic and mafia-like structures can exert a substantial influence on global processes, provoking personal, social, and economic conflicts and imbalances. That is why it is especially important for such individuals to come to know their own ancestral roots and to uncover their true essence—within the body granted to them for life on this planet. Only when they awaken a sense of responsibility toward themselves, others, and nature will new generations of their lineage have a chance at harmonious coexistence with the world, within the brief span of earthly life meant to affirm meaning, purpose, and humanity’s higher calling.

18. If the world were to exist solely within the subjective perception of a single individual, its very structure would be doomed to disintegration or disappearance. That is why it is critically important to seek mechanisms for harmonizing human nature, natural systems, the biosphere, and the noosphere—through collective interaction. Such interaction is only possible among individuals engaged in constant self-development, aware of their responsibility for the growth of others, and committed to realizing it through kind-hearted, sincere *communication and productive collaboration*.

## **Education and Science**

19. Science is not merely the accumulation of knowledge but a living process that connects the experience of the past, the challenges of the present, and the vision of the future. Its development is grounded in continuous generational interaction—on the ability to transmit not only research results but also a culture of thinking, values, and approaches. In this context, each stage of scientific activity carries particular significance—as a contribution to the formation of intellectual continuity that ensures the resilience and progress of the scientific community as a whole.

Today, we are witnessing the formation not only of systems of scientific methods but also of a coherent framework of generational succession within science. The defense of research is not merely a milestone in personal and professional development—it is a contribution to the unbroken flow of intellectual progress.

It is not just about passing knowledge and experience from older to younger generations. It is a dynamic process, where the new generation creatively reinterprets tradition through the lens of modern challenges and opens new horizons for development.

Those who enter the world of science become both heirs to ideas and agents of

change—with fresh vision, contemporary tools, the ability to think critically, act flexibly, and perceive connections in a complex world. It is this potential that determines not only the quality of individual studies but also the future of entire scientific schools.

Support from the academic community is of vital importance—through strategic mentorship and the cultivation of a culture grounded in academic integrity, openness, and intergenerational respect.

Every scientific gathering is an act of dialogue, in which the past, present, and future merge into a single system that ensures the resilience and evolution of a field of knowledge. True science is born from this generational continuity—effective, responsible, and humanistic.

20. Science, as a vital dimension of human activity, functions as a productive “organism” that requires timely “prevention” of its vulnerabilities—and, when necessary, their “treatment.” It is the task of “chosen” individuals to ensure the uninterrupted growth of this “scientific organism,” systematically improving mechanisms of foresight and prevention based on a timely and accurate “diagnosis.”

These are wise, strong-willed, and courageous individuals with multifaceted “psychological experience,” who have chosen key areas of engagement and live with a forward-looking purpose—to ensure progress. In this movement forward, there inevitably arises the need to “maintain,” “heal,” and “restore” nature, humanity, society, and the state.

Fortunately, I have encountered such people along my life and creative journey: individuals who, while laying the foundation for development, also offered essential “vaccinations” against various kinds of “viruses”...

21. The development of the individual, society, and nature is possible only under the condition of collective intelligence—an integration of the intellectual, cultural, and spiritual achievements of a community. Historical experience clearly shows: any attempt to impose a worldview unilaterally, without regard for collective wisdom, inevitably leads to stagnation and the degradation of civilization—as seen in totalitarian societies.

Personal intellect plays the role of a generator of innovative ideas and systemic solutions. Yet their practical implementation must rest upon coordinated actions and a shared vision inherent to collective intelligence. It is this interaction that makes possible the creation and evolution of life spaces aligned with the goals of sustainable development and the humanistic orientation of civilization.

22. Within the space of scientific and creative activity, a collective resembles a complex living organism, where each member is like a unique cell, with their own rhythm, memory, and energy. Yet, it sometimes happens that even the brightest and most fruitful individuals—unique contributors with high moral standards and significant professional accomplishments—are sometimes rejected by the system. This is not always a coincidence; such a decision usually arises from three underlying causes.

First, the leader who sets the tone for the collective’s development may not yet be mature enough to comprehend the depth of psychological potential and life

experience of that individual.

Second, the individual may not conform to the prescribed matrix of values and criteria that shape the group's direction.

Third, it may simply be that the value vectors of both parties point in opposite directions—like arrows shot from different bows.

When these vectors diverge, the bridge between the individual and the collective inevitably collapses. The greatest danger arises when this gap stems from differing visions of the future—of the individual, of society, and of the state. In such a case, trust dissolves, and shared understanding becomes impossible.

But the true loss lies not only in the departure of the individual. It is the cause itself that suffers most—like a garden left untended. The fruits that society hoped for wither before ripening, resulting in tragedy for those who awaited the harvest of knowledge and the outcomes of collective labor.

23. Scholars can be loosely divided into three categories:

A. Innovators and Creators – They operate in a state of uncertainty and engage in systematic scientific exploration to find optimal solutions to the contradictions within life's landscape, simultaneously existing in both harmony and conflict with it. Their psychological activity is driven by a constant desire for growth and by an intrinsic motivation to generate new knowledge within the real conditions of life and work. Their work typically stays ahead of its time and is recognized by like-minded individuals, scientific schools, and the academic community during the stage of "secondary interaction"—that is, during the various phases of practical implementation.

B. Adapters and Practitioners – Their focus lies in correcting, adapting, and implementing the scientific developments created by the first category, integrating them into real-life environments.

C. Destructors – Depending on circumstances, level of culture, and personal development, they consciously or unconsciously destroy science using any "available" means and methods.

## War

24. The war with Russia in the 21st century, having entered a new stage of development, compels us to reflect more deeply on the guiding values of the Human-Personality triad.

The Soul – to the Creator. Our bodily life on Earth is brief and cannot be reduced to a mere measured span of earthly existence. The soul and the body are "of different ages," and thus require harmonization; they serve different purposes, making it vital to discover the true essence of life; their capacities are unequal, which is why wise coordination is essential.

Life – to the Homeland. The land where you were born is your spiritual and existential point of reference, your source of strength and guidance. It requires continuous development and careful preservation so it may be passed on to future generations in a worthy state.

Honor – to no one. Pure energy can only be generated by those whose lives are

built upon laws, principles, and values internalized from a mother's milk, from teachers, and from the wise. Let us remember: loyalty to one's word and fidelity to promises affirm inner strength; a broken word destroys trust and honor—once and for all.

The future of humanity, the nation, and the state is determined by how many among us consciously choose the path of evolutionary growth, who preserve and defend the humanistic foundations of life and creative endeavor. The success of such development can only be ensured through the work of social institutions tasked with preparing individuals for productive labor, for the creation of both spiritual and material values as the foundation of Ukraine's national security. At the same time, it requires a strong defense shield—one that will protect the spiritually productive way of life chosen by the nation and foster its full integration into the civilized, democratic world.

25. As noted by one of the conceptual developers of the term “rashism” (on May 12, 2022, the Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine recommended it for formal and systemic use by journalists and media organizations), Professor Mykola Pidliachy stated:

“...this phenomenon is temporary. Humanity has entered a decisive stage of its existence—a time for self-knowledge and for recognizing the necessity of global unity. It is precisely this unity that can transform the harmony of our shared spiritual and intellectual potential, along with our creative energy, into the defining factor of evolutionary advancement.”

***Mykola Pidliachy – 2025***

*P.S. If a person is of no worth in the eyes of the Creator, no social achievements will save them in the Moment of Truth.*

*Let me rephrase this thought: during the time allotted for fulfilling one's life's purpose, a person must become worthy in the eyes of the Creator. Only then will their successes in the social realm be credited by Him—when the Moment of Truth arrives...*