



Quelle

Ljudmila Živkova, Unity, Creativity, Beauty. Speech at the Opening of the International Children's Assembly 'Banner of Peace' (Sofia, 16. August 1979)¹

Dear children,
Dear guests,
Comrades,

The call of light, of beauty and daring has brought us here today to this Assembly, to bestow upon us the joy of friendship, of inspiration and discovery, to elevate our thoughts and strivings more purely and boldly towards the world of the beautiful. The Universe has been created according to the laws of beauty, and it is according to the laws of beauty that mankind is called upon to live. The imperative of evolution, the inevitability of development, the necessity for perfection keep the fire of life forever burning. It burns up and destroys the old, clears the way for the new, elevates and in ascending the steps towards perfection asserts new forms of life that have more brightly embraced the light and exist in consonance and harmony with the whole – a flaming bird, a Phoenix, which rises from its own ashes again and again, more beautiful and fiery, striving towards the future.

In the name of the future we live, discover, strive and create. Who can set limits to the infinite, to the ever-dawning morrow of the creator, the maker of worlds of colours and sounds, living unceasingly under the sign of beauty, creating consonance and combinations of new hitherto unknown harmonies, closing the spiral curves of development to synthesize and recreate them, still more wonderful?

In the name of the future and freedom, slaves have risen, in the name of the common weal, heroes have gone out and conquered, in the name of truth, thinkers have become titans, in the name of the future the Teachers have sacrificed themselves. Clad in the fire of the indestructible, at every new step in life, the wings of the free spirit have conquered and united, have discovered the infinite joy of labour and creativity, have built the steps to the temple of culture, have found the simple path to light and truth.

And you, the children of the Earth, the eternal symbol of continuity and rejuvenation of Life are called upon by the challenge of our time to turn the energy and forces of the Planet in the only true direction. The world should no longer live threatened by the horror of war, mothers should no longer wait for children who will never return, your millions of brothers and sisters living under the burden of hunger, exploitation, class, racial and social hatred and injustice should never again have to die before they have learned how to write the most cherished words – MOTHER and FREEDOM.

The Bulgarian children, who have chosen their socialist homeland and its capital which bears the name of Wisdom, Sofia, to be the home of the Assembly, greet you with open hearts. Their childhood is quiet and peaceful, their little hands do not press the triggers of guns, their backs are not bent under the weight of bales, their eyes do not grow prematurely dim to the light behind weaving looms, the honey on the table is amber-coloured because it is instilled with the joy of the people's labour, and they can confidently sing: 'Forward, people reborn, to days of glory bright ahead'², and discover the truth in the song 'Today the Sun is our banner'.

Young artists, you who have joined hands in the name of Unity, Creativity and Beauty, you who have put the fire of your hearts and the daring of your dreams into the Assembly of Peace, you are

1 Živkova, Ljudmila, Unity, Creativity, Beauty. Speech at the Opening of the International Children's Assembly 'Banner of Peace', Sofia, August 16, 1979, in: Dies., According to the Laws of Beauty, Amsterdam 1981, S. 47-49.

2 Hierbei handelt es sich um den Anfangsvers der Hymne zur Ehre der Slawenapostel Kyrill und Method. In diesem 1892 als Hymne der Schulbildung und im sozialistischen Bulgarien als Hymne der Kultur und Bildung populären, ja fast zur-Nationalhymne avancierten Lied wird die Zukunft durch Kultur imaginiert.

laying the foundations of a new, more just and more dignified world. Let the calling power of Beauty, Truth and Wisdom unite your hearts in the name of cooperation and the common future of mankind. Thus the symbol of the child will be eternally pure and unblemished, the conditions in which each child will be born and grow up will be more worthy of the great mission nature has predestined for mankind – man to be the lord and master of his own destiny, to identify his consciousness with the light, to strive for the world of beauty.

Aspiring seekers for new treasures, turn your eyes to the wonderful far-away worlds, to the light of the thousands of celestial bodies, seek the truth and the beauty of daring. The Universe will hold your most wonderful thoughts and dreams, the light will respond to lofty aspirations, the wings of the spirit will grow stronger, the sword will cut out the arc connecting the steps of ascent. May harmony and heroism be your eternal companions, may courage be the beacon of victories, may infinity be the only limit to your aspirations. Let the fiery breath of life always ennoble your thoughts and strivings, may your creative work be pure and bright and yield fruit in the name of the common good, may action seek new paths and may consciousness embrace the infinity of the Cosmos. The blessed paths of creativity will unlock for you the gateways to unknown worlds, the thousands of flaming stars will reveal their secrets. There will glow the vibration of electrons filling the vast expanse of iridescent spheres with their harmony and rhythm.

Dear children, citizens of our Planet,

To you, miner of new ores, architects of worlds of glorious sounds and colours, we bequeath the fiery call, the unremitting behest of the future. There are times when the only way is to go ahead. Accept and hand down the imperative of the time, put beauty, truth and wisdom in the foundations of your everyday life. Do not split asunder the tree of Life for it is vigorous and powerful when its sap is giving blessing and joy to every branch and leaf, when brotherhood and cooperation unite all in the name of Peace. The art of creating and perfecting, of cutting thy crystals of the new, of hailing the radiant purposiveness with an open heart, such is the path of the creator illuminating the steps of evolution. You have chosen this path. And may the happiness of being eternally new as you create be the most beautiful accomplishment, the most precious treasure, the most magnificent garment sparkling on you in the vibration of the seven-modal harmony of Eternity. Live a full-fledged life, join in the common joy of truth, live in the beauty of the CREATOR who is always great because he exists through the art of creating for all.

Join hands and in the foundation of creativity write:

UNITY,
BEAUTY,
HARMONY.

Živkova, Ljudmila: Unity, Creativity, Beauty. Speech at the Opening of the International Children's Assembly 'Banner of Peace', Sofia, August 16, 1979. In: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte (2009), URL: <<http://www.europa.clio-online.de/2009/Article=343>>.

Auf diese Quelle bezieht sich ein einführender und erläuternder Essay von Mitewa-Michalkowa, Rumjana: Ästhetische Erziehung auf dem Weg Bulgariens nach Europa. Die Kulturpolitik Ljudmila Živkovas in den 1970er Jahren. In: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte (2009), URL: <<http://www.europa.clio-online.de/2009/Article=342>>.