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ETHICS IN GEOLOGY. EXAMPLE FROM ALBANIA

The obligation of every human being is to respect one another. This "motto" has to be written in capital letters especially in geology where nobody in this frame of Earth sciences is able to make an easy control of data gathered by any other explorer in the field at the appropriate localities. Moreover because of the very voluminous and polyhedral geological information diffused in the world as well as inside the borders of any country and despite difficulties to approach needed published materials every specialist-geologist is obliged to get the knowledge of what has been already done by his colleagues in the preceding periods and to refer to them when dealing the same problems and goals. Besides the natural obligation not to by-pass the works of others there are both social and juristic obligations not to abuse the already published materials by presenting the own works as "original" ones. In such cases those "authors" as plagiarists have to be condemned because of their violation of the authors' right. This all is also a question of ethics.

From the philosophic and social point of view ethics should be guided by one of the principal laws – the law of contraries that contributes to the development of social changes. The life consists of contradictions and contraries, e.g. beauty – ugliness, birth – death, verity – lie etc. Analogous examples can be mentioned from the world of geology: transgression - regression, erosion - accumulation, immersion - emersion etc. Thus it is possible to consider the law of contraries as a central neutron, a point zero where innumerate rays of different contraries, relatively positive and negative, have to pass in order to be elongated to their extremes in opposite directions.

In this short communication I would like to only briefly remember some of many examples of what happened in the field of geology in Albania from the ethical point of view. I have already elaborated a study – based on my personal experiences in the course of three periods: 1) until the end of WW II, 2) 50 years under the communist government, 3) in the recent time. Analyses, confrontations and comments concern social, ideological and technical angularities within the "roots of ethics". Depreciation of geologists with undisputable merits for the knowledge of the geology of the country leading to their denouncement as "spies" (the Hungarian baron Franz von Nopcsa) or even to killing them in the prison (the Polish Professor Stanislav Zuber) is only one among many kinds of unethical behaviour typical for the previous dictatorship in Albania with cancelling ethics together with other human rights: strange ways to get scientific degrees, plagiarism, fetishism, geological heredity, sectarianism, absence of consequence. It is necessary to verify, stigmatize and judge the cases where lack of ethics in geology was evident. We need to found also in Albania an institution of Geoethics, in accordance with the already existing international geoethical net.

Ethics should be absolutely respected. Ethics are not any desire but a **MUST** and obligation for every geologist.