

ABOUT DARÍO GAZAPO

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It is often said that it is not easy to say a few words about someone we love who leaves us unexpectedly. And I must admit that there are so many good things I could say about Darío Gazapo here today that I am going to try, with the help of the poets, to say a few.

1

It is very important, and the whole, a great and very determined determination not to stop until we get there, come what may, come what may, work what may, murmur who murmurs, even if we get there, even if we die on the way or have no heart for the work that is in it, even if the world sinks.

How well these words of St. Teresa fit him! Because that was Darío: hard-working, constant, tenacious.

2

If Garcilaso were to return,
I would be his squire;
what a fine gentleman he was.

My sailor suit
would become a warrior
before the gleam of its steel;
what a fine gentleman he was.

How sweet to hear you, warrior,
on the edge of your footboard!
In my hand, my hat;
what a fine gentleman he was.

How well these verses by Alberti fit in with how Darío was, a fighter, in dialogue, generous, like the Garcilaso here sublimated by Rafael Alberti.

3

There are drops of Jacobin blood in my veins,
but my verse springs from a serene spring;
and, more than an ordinary man who knows his doctrine,
I am, in the good sense of the word, good.

How well Antonio Machado describes Darío: attentive, affectionate, good, profoundly good!

4

Darius had many qualities, and here I will briefly list just a few:

GENEROSITY

He never took personal advantage of the many relationships he established as Director of the Projects Department of the ETSAM, because of his position. He was so devoted to the Department that he managed to make it, as Cervantes wrote:

The quiet, the peaceful place, the amenity of the fields, the serenity of the skies, the murmur of the fountains, the stillness of the spirit are a great part for the most sterile muses to be fruitful and offer births to the world that fill it with wonder and contentment.

ACIERTO

All the initiatives he took to improve the Department's teaching were successful. Like the MPAA. Like the institution of faculty mentors. Like everything he did.

COLLABORATION

He knew how to surround himself with great people who, by his side, were even better. From Mercedes and Blanca to Lucía and Covadonga and Ignacio. All of them were better with him. But the first, Conchita.

CHAIR

He never meditated to become a professor. I did nothing but insist that he should be accredited by ANECA. But he, generous, thought more of the Department than of himself. If before he was a Professor in pectore, now he is a Professor forever.

ARCHITECT

He was a splendid architect. When I leave Cadiz by train, I pass in front of his splendid Fire Station. And, as if he were the Cid Campeador, Darío is in this year's Venice Biennale, in my pavilion, with a beautiful drawing, placed between the drawings of Álvaro Siza and Richard Meier.

PERSON

Dario was an exceptional person. Generous. Always loving, always conciliatory, always positive.

THE GOOD FAITH

"And you neglect the most important things in the Law: justice, mercy and good faith!"
Every time I read this, I am reminded of him. For his good faith, the good faith that characterized Darius.

FULLAONDO

He was, and bragged about it, being from Juan Daniel Fullaondo's circle. Over the years Fullaondo's people, like himself, continue to be among the best in the School and in the profession. Loyalty.

CONCHITA

Dario is inconceivable without Conchita. Concha Lapayese is an exceptional person, always positive, always smiling, always strong. And Manuel, her son, will be a magnificent architect. He is already showing very good ways. Concha's fortitude and Manuel's serenity.

5

And, I will finish, once again by the hand of the poets,

And when the day of the last trip arrives,
and be at the departure of the ship that will never return,
you will find me on board lightly,
almost naked, like the children of the sea.