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## Remembering V.I.

Vladimir Leviant

### First meeting.

In 1981 I have finished 4-th year of the University<sup>1</sup>. The announcement about lectures of professor from the Joint Institute of Nuclear Research under some mysterious title “Supersymmetry” was like a gate to an unknown world and had actually changed my subsequent life. Among other things, the lectures had to take place under conditions poorly adapted for this: on the coast of the Mukhor Bay.<sup>2</sup> The very opportunity to go to Baikal was inspiring by itself, and yet to listen to the lectures ... I was five years older than my fellow students, so I was in a hurry to learn as much as possible.<sup>3</sup>

So on Baikal, in a tent camp, I met Victor Isaakovich first time.

V.I. (that is how I called him on myself) came with his wife Margarita Mikhailovna and their youngest son Nikita.

It was a wonderful time. Lectures started at 9.00-9.30 just after the breakfast and were held in a tent designated for this. We sat in a semicircle, in the center of which Victor Isaakovich on wide paper-lists (white listings from big computers) wrote in large letters extraordinary almost mystical symbols:  $\Theta_{\alpha}$ ,  $\bar{\Theta}^{\dot{\alpha}}$  .

It is worth to say that we were all on vacations, and almost every day ended with a gathering around the fire until three or four o'clock in the morning. We talked, sang songs under guitar and Victor Isaakovich and Margarita Mikhailovna were active participants of such gatherings...

### JINR.

That was amazing invitation. Victor Isaakovich simply told me: "Volodya, when you will be in Dubna, come to visit me, I will be glad to see you again." I thought: “Where am I and where is Dubna!” ... But the head of our department Parfyonov Yuri Viktorovich, who was also with us, explained that it was an invitation to a diploma!

And in September I had plunged into the world of science in the Laboratory of Theoretical Physics of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research. Victor Isaakovich greeted me very warmly. I often visited his house. We talked about everything: about life, science, about the taste of wines and cognacs ... He easily, somehow in a fatherly way, shared his experience, knowledge, and then I really wanted to be at least somehow useful to him. Once he bought skis and I had installed bindings on them. He remembered the first years of the city foundation, the strict security regime at the

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1 Theoretical physics department of Physical faculty, Irkutsk State University.

2 A very popular vacation place on the Lake Baikal.

3 I entered university five years after finishing the school.

Institute <sup>4</sup>, how the “vertukhai” (special guard) followed him, and how sometimes in a playful mood he deliberately escaped from his annoying attention.

Knowing my passion for guitar and songs, V.I. told me about his acquaintance with Alexander Galich, about Vladimir Vysotsky's visits to Dubna. His stories surprised and inspired me. They never had a mentor colouring, but rather were a kind of paternal guidance and were always told with a kind smile and an open heart.

### Say me who is your friend...

V.I. was a tall man. Every time when I saw him with his scholar co-authors, I smiled to myself and was amazed at that external similarity and internal consistency of this team. Sasha Galperin, Zhenya Ivanov, Emery Sokatchev were always ready to answer to my any, even the most unexpected, question.

One day I came up with a term: human noise<sup>5</sup>. V.I. was orders of magnitude higher than this “noise” and everyone who was close to him seemed to begin to resonate with him.

The phrase that V.I. liked to repeat: "Where the rye bloomed, is the order now!" was like a line under all our reality of that time, and all this human "noise" was ordered and acquired the status of law. That is how I understood it.

### Step aside.

Once in the city's Palace of Culture, a lecturer from Moscow gave a series of lectures under the general title: "Peace and Human". These were lectures on the Eastern and Western views of the world. I have already said above that I tried to understand and absorb as much as possible, so from the first lectures I was in the hall. What surprised me a lot, Victor Isaakovich also listened to these lectures from the very beginning.

And when someone from a closed institute that studied the phenomenon of Ninel Kulagina came to tell about these studies and even demonstrate something, Victor Isaakovich even agreed to assist him ...

### Endless patience.

The next year, after defending my diploma, I entered the graduate school and again came to Dubna to visit Victor Isaakovich. I spent three years of graduate school looking for a problem and waiting for V.I. to offer me a problem. But he only looked at me sadly and patiently answered my questions. Already at the very end of my postgraduate studies, in a conversation with Zhenya Ivanov, I confessed that all this time I had been waiting for the task to be given to me, to which I heard in response: “It was you from whom Victor Isaakovich was waiting the task!”

After this conversation, Zhenya and his co-author Seryozha Krivonos invited me to work with them. Fortunately, they had tasks, and I am infinitely grateful to them for

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<sup>4</sup> Then it was not JINR.

<sup>5</sup> That is like a white noise. People do not understand what they perpetrate, they make "noise".

this thin thread extended to me. Victor Isaakovich was not against this my turn, and was even sympathetic to it.

And despite the fact that I left his direct tutelage, Victor Isaakovich was always keenly interested in my affairs and sincerely rejoiced at my successes. That's how I remember him: kind, attentive and always smiling.