

Boris KORNEV

(*Trans. V. Stenning*)

Coiffure Martine

Essay

In the nice town of Ceret, Masik and I came across an amazing barber's "Coiffure Martine"! I didn't need to book an appointment and they got straight away what cut I wanted as soon as they saw me. Masik had a wonderful time running around the salon. And I had a haircut at last and had a chance to speak French about everything.

I am looking into the mirror, but it seems I am looking somewhere in the past and I can't help grinning... You get this sort of a grin when you are just starting to smile. I am feeling like raising my hand, greeting the Past with my move of my fingers and saying goodbye to it straight away... The Past with its plowing of the 80s for the benefit of all... Terrible time of the 90s and the noughties... Pseudo business, money, raids and money again... Deaths of peers... Every day felt like being in a sunny meadow full of colourful toys... And someone's artillery eagerly aiming the target. Undershoot, overshoot... Undershoot, overshoot...

It is not weird or painful to comprehend that what used to be everything for you is far behind now...

No way would I want to be twenty or thirty years younger! I am much happier now. I know exactly what I need and what I can live without. I know what I can't live without! One should leave the past, gloomy thoughts, outlived relationships in the right time. You should remember them but not dissolve in them. We tend to forget that no one belongs to us. Not our husbands or wives, not our children or grandchildren, not our friends or beloved... We can just share something with them. But we often get upset when we don't have something we want. When we didn't get something we expected. We rarely think of what the Fate saved us from when we didn't get what we wanted. Everything happens and comes in good time!

Even miracles.

Robert Rozhdestvensky wrote,

“The sun does not rise, but it shoots up,
Somehow I am missing the land,
Now I believe in miracles,
I'm anxiously striving for heaven...”

If you are lucky and it happened to you, you are likely to have learned yourself! You are in harmony with the outside world and - which is more important - with yourself! Don't try to look for this harmony outside yourself. It appears from the inside. It is something that can only live in your heart. It is not a new job, a new car or a new marriage. Harmony is peace in your soul which starts from yourself. You must be yourself. With your flaws and weaknesses, with your world outlook and values. Be happy staying alone with yourself! If only because this is the longest relationship you have got.

And another thing. It is silly to think the time will come when it gets easier, simpler and better... Time doesn't come, it just goes. You have got to learn to be happy right now! “To see a World in a Grain of Sand, And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand and Eternity in an hour.”

There you go! I have had a haircut...