



To talk about what is beyond words

Interview with Alexander and Nicole Gratovsky by Sergey Sukhov.

Today, I will be talking to **Alexander and Nicole Gratovsky**, anthropologists, creators of the [Dolphin Embassy](#), leaders of the “Archaeology of Possibilities” research expedition, authors of books and films, initiators of the global [NOW Assembly](#) (“Nature of Wonders”).

We talk about the Mystery of Life and wonders. What else is there to discuss with Alexander and Nicole?

ON A MYSTERY (WITH A CAPITAL LETTER)

At [TEDxStrelkaPark](#) we intend to talk about a Mystery. A Mystery with a capital letter. But let's start with a determination, a definition. What is a Mystery for you?

There is an internal contradiction here: a “definition” is always a delineation, whereas a mystery, a sacrament, unfailingly includes an uncomputable, and therefore elusive and indefinable element. The participation of something beyond what can be digitised. A sacrament is that from which, through digitisation, not only the mystery, but also life disappears. Everything else is tricks and secrets; they can even be taught in business schools.

What is the main Mystery of Life for you personally?

In how it came to pass that it is precisely up to us to respond to this question here. This is incredible fortune, and therefore an enormous responsibility. In the sense of requiring the utmost correspondence.

But still...?

We answered without guile. Perhaps just in too short a form. How can it be that, despite the common and unified sprouting of life, every blade of grass, endowed with self-awareness, is required to make an individual unique choice of a variant of the future? But on the whole, before asking about the Mystery of Life, you ask what Life is. Business consultants usually have varying degrees of ridiculous answers to this question.

Then my next question is: what is life?

At our [Assembly](#), 100 interviews were held on this and related issues.

Our personal answer is that life is the ability to reproduce oneself with errors. The creative process of constant change.

Can we, humanity, come closer to solving the Mysteries of Life? If yes, then what needs to be done? What questions is it necessary to ask?

The presence of a riddle in the field of attention is the approach to its resolution.

It is necessary to ask the eternal questions: Who are we? Where are we? Why are we? Attempting to answer them using the many familiar social identifications is useless and boring. This is not about identifications, but about identity, authenticity, an exact address, the coordinates of which are the point of intersection of these three dimensions of the one question common to us all...

Actually, for this purpose, it was recently decided to organise an integrated international expedition with the name: "Mystery of Life". We are already preparing for it. It will take place in 2020 and the route is currently being discussed by its key participants (experts from different countries in the fields of anthropology, consciousness, animal behaviour, social insects, large living systems, in particular, rainforests, interspecies interaction, biosemiotics, etc.).

In this context, which scientists do you recommend paying special attention to? What names can you indicate?

Vladimir Vernadsky, Vasily Nalimov, Merab Mamardashvili, Ervin Laszlo, Rupert Sheldrake, Roger Nelson.

ON THE NATURE OF WONDERS

At [TEDxStrelkaPark](#), the theme of your presentation will be the “Nature of Wonders.” What are you going to talk about? What should participants expect from your presentation?

We will talk about the nature of wonders. This *is* the Mystery of Life. To talk about what is beyond words is an extremely ambitious and thankless task. But now it is necessary to do everything in this area, the result of which is not less than zero, so we will use this opportunity. What should the participants expect? Sorry, we have not set ourselves the task of guessing the expectations of the participants. But it may certainly be expected that we will not try to be clever or lie.

What is it important to do so that wonders or the wondrous enter our lives? Or are they already present in it and we just don’t notice them?

The “only” thing to do is to realise who we really are. And then to correspond to ourselves. Man is the main wonder of this world, he is intended to work wonders. And at the same time he is the main paradox, because he does not want to know anything about this, does not believe in it and does not want to hear about it. To work wonders while denying the very possibility of wonders is impossible — nothing against our will.

ON THE NOW ASSEMBLY

You recently held the [Global NOW Assembly](#) in Delphi. What was its main result? What was the main wonder of the Assembly?

An assembly is both a gathering (in this case, of prominent thinkers, authors of breakthrough scientific discoveries and leaders of change) and putting together (in this case, of a consistent holistic worldview). The Assembly first introduced the concept of a wonder into scientific discourse: **a desired event with an extremely low probability in the accepted reductionist picture of the world**, because such a picture of the world does not allow us to observe the fundamental causal connection using the means sanctioned by it.

The main Wonder of the Assembly was that in addition to people, the World participated in it. There are credible witnesses to this. Without it, nothing would have happened. We ourselves would definitely not have pulled it off.

Tell us about the Elixir of life. What it is?

The Elixir of Life — also known as the Philosopher's Stone, the Quintessence, the Grail, among other names — is not a substance, not even a formula, but a Sacrament, which implies not just effort, but Great Work.

Ultimately, the Elixir is the position in which you are not an object, but an active force of Life. The position from which Life is created. The ability to consciously choose the future.

And the final question. What three books do you recommend reading to delve deeper into the topic?

Let it be:

- *The Complete Tales of Winnie-The-Pooh* by [A.A. Milne](#)
- *The Doomed City* by [Arkady and Boris Strugatsky](#)
- *Stranger in a Strange Land* by [Robert A. Heinlein](#)