

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER HERBERT IMICH

(Czestochowa, Poland, 02.04.1903 – New York, USA, 08.06.2014)

MINIBIOGRAPHY

Alexandre Zaslavsky

Alexander Herbert Imich was born on February 4th 1903 in Czestochowa, Poland, with his Jewish family in good financial and cultural conditions. His father was an active and respected member in the community. He was educated at home until the age of 10, by preceptors who introduced him to literature with romances about adventures and discoveries, matching with his neophilia and the constant desire for knowledge which are some of his traits. According to Waldo Vieira (see the following interview), Imich had the opportunity to visit an advanced extraphysical community in the previous intermissive period before his resoma, with deep impact on his parabrains, which was determining throughout the rest of his last existence. The unceasing and unflagging will for getting to know the consciousness, in its several states of manifestation, would be due to this visit. A proof of this is his interest in the parapsychic phenomena ever since he was 13 years old, the same age a Jewish boy is considered grown up and responsible before Judaism, assuming an alleged alliance to his people. The early search for the paraphenomenology indicates contrasting paragenetics with the Jewish majority, affiliating himself to the universalist conception of human transcendence instead of the religious and sectarian dogmatism. At the age of 16, he informed his mother about his intentions of becoming a *yogi*, an accessible representation for him of this ideal. Until the end of his life he continued affirming that enlightenment was his biggest existential objective. He practised multiple sports in his youth becoming even a swimming champion. Refused by the Polish marine due to its present anti-Semitism, he went to study Zoology at the University of Krakow, and obtained his doctorate with an original study about aquatic worms. He took advantage of his stay at the University to study several subjects such as Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Geology, Mineralogy, Crystallography, Optics, Philosophy, Psychiatry, Mathematical Logics and Astronomy, feeding this way his unceasing appetite for knowledge. At this time he held his famous experiments with the medium Matylda, which are registered in his book *Incredible Tales of the Paranormal*, written in 1995. After obtaining his title, and with no possibility to become a teacher at the University, he decided to assume the training he had received to become a Chemist. At the age of 24, he married a chemist colleague, but unfortunately she left him. During the conflict derived from this situation he even considered suicide, but given the fact that his older brother had also committed this act because of loving matters, he abandoned the attempt and overcame the problem. Some time later, he got married for the second time, after some difficul-

ties, with a young woman called Wela, of an orthodox jewish family. They were very happy and together passed through the second world war and immigrated after into the United States, where Wela worked as a clinical psychologist until her death in the middle 1980's. In the beginning of the second great war, he joined the polish army and during a campaign at the borders, he was invited by the russians to work as an industrial chemist. Soon his wife joined him but when they refused the russian citizenship, they were taken to a prisoner's camp close to the White Sea. Imich considered everything an adventure, but the situation was extreme. There was lack of food, of medical drugs and minus 50 degrees celsius. A year and a half later the couple was released and they chose a city in Kazakhstan, on the border with Iran to live. Imich worked at a fabric and soon became the manager. After two years, they returned to Poland and became aware of the holocaust. Many of their family members had died on concentration camps.

They picked up Wela's sister in Germany and then immigrated into the United States. Imich continued working as a chemist and parapsychologist until retirement. He published many papers about Parapsychology in many different journals. He eventually offered an annual prize, approximately between 1989 and 2004, for the best original essay in Parapsychology. The list is published right after this text. His attempt was to foment new ideas in a field which he considered practically inert. At this time he was introduced by Patrice Kean, from the ASPR, to Waldo Vieira and both became good friends, according to the following interview. At the age of 95, he obtained his degree in Healing Arts. He lived 111 years, many lives in one, completely focused on personal and also scientific evolution. Alexander Imich left a legacy of brilliance, erudition, courage, scientific forward thinking and, last but not least, good humour.

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