

**THE LANGUAGE OF TERNARY DESCRIPTION
AND ITS FOUNDER**

(To the 70th anniversary of Professor Avenir Uyemov.)

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1. THE MAN OF MARKED INDIVIDUALITY

Avenir Uyemov is, undoubtedly, an outstanding philosopher, who has made his original contribution in different domains of philosophy. His most important achievements are in the field of logic, so his logical system is the main point of the discussion below. However, even those people who could not look into the details of Uyemov's logical works but had a chance to communicate with him or at least watch him, were impressed by his extraordinary personality.

I first saw Avenir Uyemov at a lecture on philosophy. In September 1968 he was the forty-year-old head of the Department of Philosophy at Odessa University, when I was a second-year student in the Faculty of Mathematics. The subject of the lecture was "Dialectical Materialism." We had already studied the beginnings of that subject at school, so our new professor didn't tell us any surprising new facts at this first lecture. But he impressed us by his uncommon appearance and especially by his manner of expounding material. We all felt that this professor was somehow unlike his colleagues lecturing on human sciences and, on the contrary, somehow resembled our mathematics instructors. Perhaps at that time I did not clarify for myself the essence of those differences and similarities. Now I think that it may be expressed briefly as "professionalism." Both the mathematical disciplines which we studied as well as our mathematics lecturers were supported by the age-long cultural tradition worked out by generations of professionals. This tradition demands a wideness of prospect as well as an accuracy in details. Uyemov represents another tradition, but of the same antiquity and depth, and which requires almost the same demands of its adherents.