

Menashe Noy's Eulogy on David Perlov

14.12.2003

A few weeks ago I had a chance encounter with David Perlov near his home. "Menashe," he said, "it was wonderful. Thank you for everything." I didn't fully understand what he meant. I couldn't remember if I had been on TV at the time or in a movie and that is what he was thanking me for. But David didn't give me time to be embarrassed. He continued, "I would like to give you a piece of advice: try not to get ill, try not to grow old."

I knew he was ill, I knew he was weakening, but it took me a moment to understand that he was actually saying goodbye to me.

"Can you avoid it?" I asked him.

"I don't know, try to."

How many teachers does one have in one's life? How many of them will one call a teacher? Spiritual guide? Which of them will one remember? From whom will one receive something for the rest of one's life, to pass on to those coming after him? David Perlov was our teacher, never an educator, but a teacher. He showed us how to respect the tools of our profession, the camera, the steenbeck, the film, and in the end also the "viva video". He showed us how to love the cinema, image, soundtrack, painting, photography, music, dialogue, effects, voice over, slowly but surely, in a voice that leaves you no choice but to become a dweller in his world. Alfred Hitchcock, *Spellbound*, Stanley Kubrick, *Full Metal Jacket*. Jean Renoir, *The Rules of the Game*, Robert Bresson, *A Man Escaped*. Akira Kurosawa, *Madadayo*. In the first chapter of "Diary" Yom Kippur 1973, the camera stands at the window and is aimed at the synagogue yard on Manne Street in Tel Aviv. I was there in that yard, a 13-year-old boy, waiting for his father to come out, standing there watching people gathering, listening to whispers, vehicles arriving, men leaving the synagogue and driving away. You too saw them, saw me looking at them. In the garden of forking paths, without order or logic, arbitrary and separated, you drew us a picture with continuity, perspective, a meaning and the possibility of identifying, a testimony that we were present here. It was wonderful David Perlov, thank you for everything.