

## Editorial

Three hundred years ago in 1724, Immanuel Kant was born in Königsberg. We can remember this event in different ways, but Kant's life, as well as his teachings, has become a cultural event of global significance. Thousands and thousands of books and articles have been written about Kant and his philosophical views. On April 22 at the Kant Baltic Federal University, the International Kant Congress "The World Concept of Philosophy" will open on April 22 at the Kant Baltic Federal University. Definitely different aspects of his philosophical teachings will be discussed there. But I would like to talk a little about Kant's life, because it is a lesson of amazing intellectual courage, and can serve as a wonderful example for thinking people coming into this rapidly changing world. His health left much to be desired, but he did not complain at all, on the opposite, he managed to overcome his natural infirmity, developed a character which he named "the new man", and accomplished so much in his life that one can only wonder. He wrote in his work "The Dispute of the Faculties": "Owing to my flat and narrow chest, which makes it difficult for my heart and lungs to function, I was predisposed to hypochondria, which in my youth bordered on an aversion to life. The understanding, however, that this oppressive feeling was due to a purely mechanical cause, and that it could not be eliminated, helped me to ignore it and, despite the tightness in my chest, to remain calm and cheerful..." He is often described as an automaton by whom you could check your watch. Yes, he loved order, but that didn't make him a dull and repetitive person. As a young man, he was noted for his elegance and his love of socializing. His late dinners were an event in his hometown. Here is how our famous N.M. Karamzin describes a meeting with him: "... After dinner I was at the glorious Kant, a deep-thinking, subtle Metaphysician, ... Kant, whom the Jewish Socrates, the late Mendelssohn, did not call otherwise, as *der alles zermalmende Kant*, i.e. all crushing Kant. I had no letters to him; but the courage of the city takes, and the door of his study was opened to me. I was met by a small, thin old man, perfectly white and gentle. My first words were: "I am a Russian nobleman, I love great men, and I wish to pay my respects to Kant. He immediately asked me to sit down, saying: "I have written something that cannot please everyone; not many people like metaphysical subtleties". Kant was talking to the Russian nobleman for three hours. He spoke about the main thing – about the famous categorical imperative – the moral law, which amazed him as much as the beauty of the starry sky: "I am comforted by the fact that I am already sixty years old, and that my life will soon come to an end: for I hope to enter another, better one. Thinking about the pleasures I had in life, I do not feel pleasure now; but imagining those cases where I acted in accordance with *the moral law* written in my heart, I rejoice. I talk about *the moral law*: let's call it conscience, a sense of right and wrong – but it is". This thought has a special meaning for Russia, where the law is regarded with a certain suspicion, and the truth (*pravda*) does not always coincide with it.

