

## Obituary

### DR. YUSUF AHMAD

(1923 – 2008)

“Effort is sine quo non. It should be accompanied by reliance on Allah. When Yusuf did so, the door was opened automatically for him and the way was cleared for him to the outside”.

On 17th August, 2008, Dr. Yusuf Ahmad left us according to his pre-destined schedule, in an age characterized by famine of honest and dedicated scientists. He was a perfect gentleman, a noble soul and a very modest scholar. “Death of an ‘Alim’ (Scholar) is the death of ‘Aalam’ (world)”. However, according to great Persian poet, Hafiz, “People who are endowed with the faculty of love do not die as their name is inscribed permanently in the annals of the universe”.

My association with Dr. Yusuf was occasional but very intimate. Like Professor Salimuzzaman Siddiqui, Professor Zafar Zaidi and Dr. Moosa Hasany, he expected and thoroughly enjoyed spontaneous utterance of poetry from me, especially the key word: “Yusuf”.

“Yusuf ko na samjhay kay Haseen bhi hai Javan bhee, Shayad niray Leader thay Zulikha kay mian bhee”

(He could not realize that Yusuf was young, most handsome and highly attractive. The husband of Zulekha was perhaps merely a stupid political leader).

Dr. Yusuf Ahmad was born in Wazirabad, Punjab, on 7th February 1923. As a highly respected distinguished scientist of international repute, he specialized in Organic Chemistry, Synthetic and Natural Products. He was endowed with the highly commendable faculty of “interpretation”. To express this attribute of Dr. Yusuf Ahmad in the poetic verses of Maulana

Jalaluddin Rumi:

“When the moon-faced Yusuf saw the sun in a dream, he became expert in the interpretation of dreams”.



Dr. Ahmad had a highly distinguished educational career starting from University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan [B.Sc.(Hon's), 1943; M.Sc.(Hon's), 1946; London University, UK, PhD., 1954; Post Doctorate Research, 1959-1960, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Post Doctorate Research, 1960-1961, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA; Post Doctorate Research, 1969-1970. He held many prestigious positions such as Member (Science), Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR), 1980-1983; Director, PCSIR Laboratories, Karachi, 1970-1973, Director, PCSIR Laboratories, Lahore, 1973-1980, Head, Chemical Research Division, PCSIR, Karachi, 1970-1973, Principal Scientific Officer, PCSIR, Karachi, 1964-1970, Senior Research Officer, PCSIR, Karachi, 1958-1964, Research Officer, PCSIR, Karachi, 1956-1957, Lecturer, University of the Punjab, Institute of Chemistry, Lahore, 1947-1951, Lecturer, in Chemistry, Islamia College, Lahore, 1946-1947.

Dr. Yusuf Ahmad possessed a highly brilliant record of Fellowships and Memberships. He was Fellow, Fulbright Hays Advanced Research, USA; Fellow, Nuffield Foundation, London;

Fellow, University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Fellow, Royal Institute of Chemistry, (FRIC), London; Fellow, Chemical Society, London; Member, Pakistan Association for Advancement of Science; Member, Pakistan Association of Scientists and Scientific Professions; Gazetted Member, Pakistan Medical Research Council, Government of Pakistan; Member, Technological Sub-Committee, Pakistan Cotton Research Institute, Karachi; Member, Research Committee, Board of Unani and Ayurvedic Systems of Medicine, Government of Pakistan; Member, Technical (Pharmaceuticals) Export Promotion Bureau, Government of Pakistan; Member, Pharmaceutical Committee, Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan.

Our stay on the planet earth is very short as Maulana Syed Suleman Nadvi, the great historian and author of Seerat-un-Nabi has remarked:

“Ham Aaysay Rahey Kay Waysay Rahey,  
Wahan Dekhna Hay Kay Kaysay Rahey”.

(We lived liked this or we lived like that. Let us see how we live in the Hereafter).

May the departed soul of Dr. Yusuf Ahmad rest in eternal Peace and unending happiness (Aameen).

**Prof. Dr. Khushnood Ahmed Siddiqui**

Fellow  
Pakistan Academy of Sciences