

Book Review

Science for Peace and Progress: Life works of Abdus Salam

The compilation of ‘Life and Work of Abdus Salam’ is yet another feather in the cap of Prof. Dr. Anwar Dil who has already compiled and edited works of several other eminent personalities of the world.

The book provides, at the outset, a biographical profile of Prof. Salam which reveals his outstanding achievements in the fields of Physics, Mathematics and Science in general. The introductory essay by Prof. Dil narrates the author’s personal remembrances. This essay highlights some very rarely known glimpses of Dr. Salam’s life. The essay provides interesting reading, with personal touches. The author has also profusely illustrated the essay with photographs that the reader may not otherwise find in one single source.

Part I of the book presents collection of selected writings of Prof. Salam. While each one of his writings reproduced here reflects the relentless efforts Salam made during his life time for advancing scientific effort worldwide and especially in Pakistan, the discourses ‘My concept of successful life’, mathematics in science—a poetic language’, ‘The isolation of scientists in developing world’, ‘Nobel Prize for Physics: excerpts from the Nobel Lecture, Nobel Award, Remarks at the Nobel Banquet 1979’, ‘Science and Peace’, ‘Scientific thinking between the sec-

ularization and the transcendent: an Islamic viewpoint’ and ‘Cooperation for development in the third world’ are particularly highly illuminating.

Part II of the book is a collection of Tributes and Reminiscences. This section reveals the unique capacity of the author of the book to gain access to such a large number of eminent personalities of the world, including Heads of States, in such a short time frame and then convince them to pen down their impressions of Abdus Salam. Only a highly motivated and dedicated scholar can dare embark upon and succeed in accomplishing such a stupendous task. Young scientists of Pakistan, and even in the developed world would find reading these reminiscences highly inspiring, and which are bound to motivate them to shape up their own scientific future.

The book ends with Annexes in Part III. Overall, the compilation of Life and work of Abdus Salam is a very timely and much needed piece of scholarly effort. The book is a ‘must reading’ for the youth around the world. Prof. Dil deserves commendations for devoting his time and efforts in presenting Salam, the visionary, to the world in his own highly engaging style.

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