



Obituary

Prof. Dr. Shahzad Ahmad Mufti, *FPAS* (1942-2013)



Prof. Dr. Shahzad A. Mufti, Adviser (Biosciences), COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad and former Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation breathed his last in the early morning of Monday, December 30, 2013 after a brief illness in Islamabad.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

The sad news spread like a wild fire in the entire country. The scientific community in general and zoologists in particular were shocked with the unexpected news.

Prof. Mufti was born on August 14, 1942 in Khanewal to a very well respected school teacher. He later shifted to Ichhra, Lahore and continued with his secondary and higher secondary school education. In 1959, he joined Government College, Lahore and obtained his B.Sc. degree in 1961 and M.Sc. degree in Zoology in 1963 from University of the Punjab. Because of his brilliant academic career, he was selected as Lecturer in Zoology in University of the Punjab, soon after his M.Sc. In 1969 he won the scholarship of Central Overseas Training Scheme of Government of Pakistan and proceeded to USA for his doctoral degree. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA in 1970 in the field of Anatomy/Developmental Biology. Later, he rejoined his faculty position in the Department of Zoology of University of the Punjab, where he became Assistant Professor in 1970, Associate Professor in 1979 and Professor in 1987. During this period he also availed of postdoctoral positions in University of Michigan,

USA in 1974 and then in 1978. He also served as Associate Professor of Bio-medical Sciences, Ohio University, USA during 1980-1984.

In 1990, Prof. Mufti decided to move to Islamabad, where he was appointed as Director General, Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH). During his tenure of 11 years he had a pivotal role in development of PMNH and bringing it to an international level institution. Later on, he became Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation. Because of his eminence in the field, Prof. Mufti was elected President of Zoological Society of Pakistan for the tenure 2001-2003, and Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 2003. He also served as Treasurer, Pakistan Academy of Sciences during 2011-2012.

Prof. Mufti was a unique blend of an Artist and a Scientist which reflected in all facets of his life. He was a very popular teacher, known for his eloquence and sense of humor. His pioneering work in Teratology, besides his fascinating studies on regeneration of muscles from a finely chopped muscles, is part of Pakistani science history. His knowledge and love for paintings, Urdu poetry, classical Indian/Pakistani music and *ghazals* was evident from the time, no matter how little, one would spend in his ever refreshing company. He himself was a very good singer and would oblige his students on request and his colleagues and friends, even without request.

Prof. Mufti was a very caring husband and a father. He was in the habit of discussing every event of the day with his wife and family and hence would

enjoy his sleep at night without the routine mental stresses.

We have lost in him a very competent Developmental Biologist, a kind teacher, a thoughtful friend and a God fearing nice human being. May Allah rest his soul in peace and give

fortitude to his students, friends, colleagues and family members to bear this irreparable loss.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Rauf Shakoori

Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan

Fellows, Pakistan Academy of Sciences