

OBITUARY



Dr. S.Z. Hasanain
(1910-1988)

Dr. Syed Zulfiqarul Hasanain after a protracted illness died of bronchiopneumonia and cardiac failure on 16th October 1988. May God Almighty shower His choicest blessings upon the departed soul. Amen.

Dr. S.Z. Hasanain was born on 21 February 1910 at Fatehpur Huswah in the United Province of India. He passed Matriculation examination in 1926 from Fatehpur in 1st Division with distinction from the U.P Board. From his early high school days Dr. Hasanain evinced an interest in plants. He studied at the Muslim University of Aligarh from where he obtained M.Sc. degree in Botany in 1932 again in the First Division and secured First position in order of merit. He was awarded Government of U.P. Fellowship to receive training in Economic Botany at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa from 1933-35. In 1945 he was selected for the award of British Government Scholarship for overseas training which was later continued by the Govt. of Pakistan. He obtained Ph.D. degree in 1948 from the University of Minnesota where Dr. Hasanain studied Plant Pathology and Plant Genetics and came under the influence of Prof. Dr. E.C. Stakman and Dr. K.K. Hayes. His thesis dealt with the study of stem rust reaction and other characters in Indian wheat varieties and their crosses.

Dr. Hasanain started his professional career at the Institute of Plant Protection, Pusa, Bihar, India (1934-40) and at the Institute of Plant Research at Simla, India (1940-44) where he was concerned with the breeding of high yielding rust resistant wheat varieties. After obtaining his Ph. D degree Dr. Hasanain returned to Karachi in 1948 to work as a Plant Pathologist in the Department of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture (1948-51). In Karachi, a Botanical Society was formed and Dr. Hasanain with other Minneso-

tans and his research associates would meet at weekly interval to discuss the latest achievements in the field of plant sciences. This was the beginning of the botanical society which has now transformed into the Pakistan Botanical Society.

Dr. Hasanain served as the Director Botanical Survey of Medicinal plants at Abbotabad (1951-52). Dr. Hasanain joined the University of Karachi as a Reader in the Department of Botany (1952) and later on as Chairman of the Department (1955-60). He was deputed to serve as Professor and Head of the Department of Botany at the University of Libya, Tripoli (1960-62). Dr. Hasanain was a visiting Professor of Botany at King Saud University, Riyadh (1964-65). In 1969 Dr. Hasanain retired from the University of Karachi and devoted the rest of his life in religious pursuits. He compiled an analytical study of the *Mutashabeh* verses of the Holy Quran in the light of modern scientific knowledge and published it under the title of *Maqamate Quran* in 1988.

Dr. Hasanain was a keen student of Anthropology, Sociology and Philosophy. He had a politely formal manner with people he did not know well, to those with whom he was closely associated he was a warm and affectionate friend especially with his students. He encouraged his students upon their learning and using new techniques in research. Dr. Hasanain's philosophy of education embraced the idea that students and Professors shared mutual learning experiences through which both benefitted.

Dr. Hasanain in 1938 was married to Akhtar Fatima, grand niece of Khawaja Altaf Hussain Hali. They had almost 50 years of happily married life. Dr. Hasanain is survived by his wife, 2 sons (Mr. Khurshed Hasanain, Dr. Nasir Hasanain) and 4 daughters (Mrs. Azra Kazilbash, Mrs. Nadira Abbas, Dr. Shehla Naqvi, Mrs. Rana Hasanain). As an educationist and researcher, Dr. Hasanain will be also remembered for long by a host of his students who are now in the teaching and or research institutions at home and abroad.

(Abdul Ghaffar)

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