

in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity – in all this vastness – there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.'

Science is similar to a knife: in the hands of a deft surgeon, the knife does good by curing the sick; whereas, in the hands of an evil person, it does bad by exterminating life. Are we using our wisdom to explore science and teach it in a manner so that we promote only the good of it? Or,

has science made us to turn headstrong thinking that we can control the bio-physical world as we desire?

This well-presented and easily readable book, left me dazed and wondering about myself and my place in the world and the universe!

1. Henke, A., Höttecke, D. and Riess, F., Paper presented at the 10th International History, Philosophy, and Science Teaching Conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, USA, 2009; http://www.nd.edu/~ihpst09/papers/Henke_MS.pdf (accessed on 24 May 2011).

2. Sagan, C., *Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space*, Random House, New York, 1994, p. 429.

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PERSONAL NEWS

Nuggehalli Raghuveer Moudgal (1931–2011)

N. R. Moudgal, an eminent reproductive biologist and endocrinologist from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, passed away on Sunday, 8 May 2011 at Dublin, CA, USA, after battling cancer for the last few months. He was born in Mysore in 1931 and obtained his Master's and PhD degrees in biochemistry from the University of Madras. After postdoctoral work at the Hormone Research Laboratory, University of California, San Francisco and spending a year as a Wellcome Trust Fellow at the Department of Immunology, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, UK, he returned to India as a CSIR Pool Officer at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He worked at the Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, as an Assistant Professor and rose to the position of Professor; he also served as Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Dean of the Science Faculty. During his long career spanning more than 40 years, Moudgal made seminal contributions: he was the first to initiate research in the areas of endocrine biochemistry, reproductive physiology and primate biology using immunological methods. He had conducted systematic studies using highly characterized antibodies to gonadotro-

phins to block their action and demonstrated the critical role of these hormones in follicular maturation and implantation using rodents and non-human primates as models. His pioneering work using antibodies to luteinizing hormone formed the basis of further studies on immunological approaches to human contraception. He successfully demonstrated the need for



follicle stimulating hormone for the initiation of spermatogenesis in non-human primates and humans. He was instrumental in establishing the finest bonnet monkey facility in India and contributed nearly 150 scientific papers using exclu-

sively non-human primates as models. He was the first Indian scientist to present his research work at the prestigious Laurentian Hormone Research Conference in Canada. He also developed a vibrant group and trained a large number of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, who are currently leaders in science. He was a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences and the Indian National Science Academy, and also a Member of the Endocrine Society, USA and Society for Study of Reproduction, USA. He had received several awards, including the S.S. Bhatnagar Award.

Moudgal was not only a great scientist, but also a kind-hearted human being. He will be remembered for his dedication to science and also for his positive attitude towards life in general. He was a source of inspiration and brought the best out of everyone around him. He will be missed dearly. He leaves behind two sons and a daughter, six grandchildren and a large number of colleagues.

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