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NOVEMBER 10, 1949

BY PROFESSOR HIDEKI YUKAWA
(WINNER, 1949 NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS)

I AM, OF COURSE, VERY HAPPY AND PROUD TO HAVE RECEIVED THE NOBEL PRIZE. AT THE SAME TIME, I AM ALMOST EXHAUSTED FROM THE EXCITEMENT.

THE FIRST THING I ~~WANT~~ ^{WANT} TO SAY TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE IS THAT I CONSIDER MYSELF VERY FORTUNATE INDEED. I SHALL BE VERY HAPPY IF THIS GOOD NEWS OF MY AWARD HELPS IN SOME WAY TO REVIVE THE HOPES OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE AND TAKES AWAY SOME OF THE GLOOM THAT HAS BEFALLEN THEM.

AFTER THE WAR, THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN WERE DISHEARTENED, FACING THE DIFFICULT TASK OF STARTING ANEW--IN A PEACEFUL MANNER--THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THEIR CULTURE. I KNOW, TOO, THAT MY PEOPLE WERE DESPERATE ON ACCOUNT OF THE MANY SHORTAGES AND BECAUSE OF THE ENTIRE ECONOMIC PICTURE. MANY WERE COMPLETELY PESSIMISTIC AND EVEN SOME OF THE YOUNGER PEOPLE WERE RAPIDLY BECOMING NIHILISTS.

I SEE RECORDED THIS WEEK IN THE JAPANESE PRESS THE GREAT JOY OF PEOPLE ALL OVER JAPAN AT MY GOOD FORTUNE. I REJOICE AT THIS KNOWLEDGE.

I NEVER SUSPECTED BACK IN 1933 WHEN I FIRST BEGAN MY WORK ON THE MESON THEORY THAT A PRIZE WOULD SOMEDAY BE MINE. I HAVE ALWAYS DONE MY WORK FOR ITS OWN SAKE. THOUGH I DREAMED AT TIMES OF RECEIVING THIS HIGHEST HONOR BESTOWED ON ANY SCIENTIST, I FELT THE NOBEL PRIZE WAS FAR FROM ME. IT STILL

SEEMS LIKE A DREAM.

THUS, WHEN TWO SWEDISH NEWSPAPERMEN CALLED ON ME AT MY OFFICE SOME THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE FIRST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRIZE I DID NOT SUSPECT ANYTHING OF THIS KIND. AS AMERICAN REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS BEGAN TO COME ONE AFTER THE OTHER, HOWEVER, I BECAME SOMEWHAT EXCITED. ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 3 THE RUMOR WAS WIDESPREAD AND THAT EVENING AFTER NOON CONFIRMATION CAME.

I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD THAT THE AWARD WAS ANNOUNCED ON THE 3RD OF NOVEMBER BECAUSE IT WAS THE DAY ON WHICH THE JAPANESE PEOPLE CELEBRATE THE "DAY OF CULTURE." IT WAS VERY HAPPY ~~FOR~~ HOLIDAY NEWS FOR ME AND THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. MOREOVER, IT WAS A HAPPY DAY FOR ME PERSONALLY BECAUSE ~~IT WAS THE BIRTHDAY OF MY~~ LATE MOTHER.

I HOPE I SHALL BE ABLE TO GO TO STOCKHOLM IN DECEMBER TO RECEIVE PERSONALLY MY AWARD AND THE ACCOMPANYING TEN MILLION YEN.

FOR THE MOMENT, I HAVE NO DEFINITE PLANS ~~AS~~ AS TO HOW I SHALL ~~USE~~ THE MONEY, BUT I AM SURE THAT IT WILL BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEORETICAL PHYSICS IN JAPAN.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE BEEN ENJOYING MY STAY IN THE UNITED STATES FOR MANY REASONS I MISS JAPAN AND MY MANY FRIENDS THERE. I NOTE THAT NOW ESPECIALLY THE JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE WAITING FOR ME IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY DELIVER IN PERSON THEIR CONGRATULATIONS. LETTERS ARE COMING IN BY THE HUNDREDS

EVERY DAY FROM ALL MY FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD.

AS MANY PEOPLE IN JAPAN CAN EASILY GUESS, LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES IS EXTREMELY COMFORTABLE AND CONVENIENT--NO TROUBLE WITH SHORTAGES, NO DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSPORTATION. CONDITIONS PERMIT ME TO SPEND MOST OF MY TIME ON RESEARCH.

MY MESON THEORY IS NOT YET COMPLETED AND WE FACE A NUMBER OF MAJOR PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE SOLVED BEFORE WE CAN GO ON. I SHALL HAVE TO CONTINUE MY WORK FOR MANY YEARS UNTIL WE ARRIVE AT THE FINAL STAGE AND UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BETTER (MATTER) ENERGIES (THE ENERGIES AND FORCES IN OUR WORLD.

I LIVE IN NEW YORK CITY, ONLY TWO BLOCKS FROM MY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY OFFICE. MY WIFE AND TWO SONS, TOO, ARE ENJOYING THEIR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN THIS CITY, WHICH THEY FIND VERY EXCITING. I TEACH TWO CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY AND MY SONS ATTEND A SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL. WE HAVE BEEN SIGHTSEEING SEVERAL TIMES BUT THERE REMAIN MANY INTERESTING PLACES FOR US TO VISIT.

ONE THING WHICH I WANT TO MENTION ON THIS OCCASION IS THAT MY WORK ON THE MESON IN^S THE RESULT OF MANY YEARS OF COOPERATION WITH YOUNGER PHYSICISTS SUCH AS DR. SAKATA, DR. KOBAYASKI, AND DR. TAKETANI. DR. SAKATA IN PARTICULAR CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MESON THEORY.

I CONSIDER IT A VERY GREAT PLEASURE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO THESE, MY COLLEAGUES. MORE THAN THAT, THERE ARE TODAY MANY YOUNG THEORETICAL PHYSICISTS WORKING IN OUR FIELD, AND THE FUTURE LOOKS PROMISING.

ONE GOOD THING WHICH I CAN DO IS TO HELP THE EXCHANGE

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OF YOUNG PHYSICISTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND AMERICA AND POSSIBLY
OTHER COUNTRIES IN EUROPE TO MAKE STUDY EASIER FOR THEM.

THEORETICAL PHYSICS IN JAPAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIGHLY RE-
GARDED BY EMINENT PHYSICISTS IN AMERICA AND EUROPE. ES-
PECIALLY DRS. OPPENHEIMER AND RABI OF THE UNITED STATES
HAVE BEEN ^{VERY} KIND, NOT ONLY TO ME, BUT TO JAPANESE PHYSICISTS
IN GENERAL.

I BELIEVE THE REMARKABLY RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICS
IN RECENT YEARS IS DUE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO THE COOPERATION
OF SCIENTISTS AROUND THE WORLD IRRESPECTIVE OF THE DIFFERENCES
IN RACE AND CREED.

IN CONCLUSION, PLEASE DELIVER TO ALL THE LEADERS IN JAPAN
MY HEARTIEST THANKS FOR THEIR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS WHICH
MOVED ME DEEPLY IN SPITE OF THE GREAT DISTANCE WHICH SEPARATES
US.

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