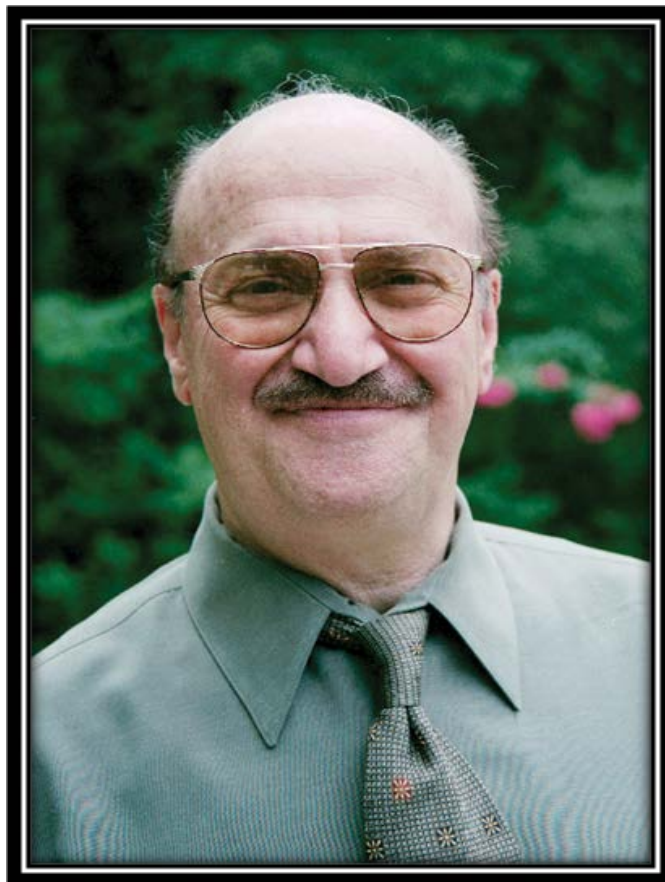


Dr. Esmail Meisami

Beloved father, husband and teacher (1942-2013)

A Remembrance



از ملك جهان نقش نگاران همه رفتند
وز كاخ هنر آينه كاران همه رفتند
مژگان مگشايبید كه در باغ و چمن هيچ
جز زاغ نمانده است و هزاران همه رفتند
در چشم جگر سوختگان اشگ نمانده است
خون گريه كن اى دوست كه ياران همه رفتند
چون برگ خزان يا به ركابيم شب و روز
گردن چه كشي گردنه داران همه رفتند
اين قافله چون ريگ روان باد سوار است
غافل چه نشستی كه سواران همه رفتند
چون غنچه محال است كزين عقده در آييم
اكنون كه دگر عقده گساران همه رفتند
يك روز در اين باديه صد قافله دل بود
فرياد كه آن راهسپاران همه رفتند
تا خود چه خبر شد كه خزان گشت بهاران
از باغ و چمن لاله عذاران همه رفتند
اى چرخ نگون گردى و اى قبله كج آيى
كز ز زاويه ها سجده گزاران همه رفتند
گر نكته مكرر شد و گر قافيه تكرر
«دعوى چه كنى داعيه داران همه رفتند»

جواد جعفرى آذر مهر

The memory of the observing, warm and caring smile of Esmail (Essie) still glows in our souls. Everything here is the same as it was, except that the hearts that were beating with the excitement of being with him are now shattered and broken. This memorial leaflet was put together to tell the story of a wonderful father, husband and teacher, Dr. Esmail Meisami. This was made possible with the help of friends and family.

Dr. Meisami was born on Nov. 19, 1942 in Tehran, Iran. He was the youngest son of Gholamreza and Sedigheh, and brother to Abbas, Mehdi, Mahboubeh, Manijeh and Parvin. Essie obtained his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1967, and his Ph.D. from the same university in 1970. He then returned to Iran and joined the faculties of science at department of Biology at the University of Tehran. He was one of the principal faculties who established the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology and the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics (IBB). During his tenure at IBB, Dr. Meisami was the most productive faculty member, both in terms of peer reviewed scientific publications and the number of graduate students who obtained their M.S. degrees under his supervision and guidance. The establishment of the neurophysiology laboratory, the electrophysiology laboratory, and the facilities for keeping animals for

neurobiology research at IBB are just examples of Essie's hard work at the institute.

Dr. Meisami returned to the United States in 1980, and after several years of teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, he joined the faculty of the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was author of over 200 publications, and several text books including *Coloring Book of Physiology*, used by college students as well as some medical students, now translated into several languages including German, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese.

A popular professor at the University of Illinois, he served as associate professor of both Molecular and Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience. Here is a sample of comments by his students: "Meisami is awesome! He is the sweetest man ever. He really cares about his students and wants them to perform well."; "Very interesting class with a great lecturer."; "He is probably the nicest and most understanding professor you will ever have at the University of Illinois...He genuinely wants his students to learn without stress...he wants students to enjoy going to class and learning...I would take any class that is taught by him."; "How could you not love Dr. Meisami? He thinks every student is brilliant and does what he can to help

them achieve their goals. He is always smiling and you can't help but smile back.”

Dr. Meisami's Timeline

1942: Birth year of Esmail Meisami in Tehran, Iran.

1948-61: Early Education: Masoud Saad & Toosi Elementary Schools and Elmieh High School, Tehran, Iran



Essie sitting among his sisters (Manijeh, Parvin, and Mahboubeh)

1962-64: Early College Education, Skagit Valley College, Washington State, Abilene College, Texas.

1964-67: B.A. in Physiology, University of California, Berkeley (with Honors)

1967-70: Ph.D. in Physiology (Neuroscience), University of California, Berkeley.



High school years

1971-1976: Assistant Professor of Physiology, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

1975-1980: Director, Neurobiology Research Laboratories, Research Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Tehran, Iran.

1976-1980: Associate Professor of Physiology and Neuroscience, Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology and Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Faculty of Sciences, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran.

1980: Return to the United States.

1980-1986: Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley.

1986: Faculty member of the school of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

1986-2012: Associate Professor of Physiology and Neuroscience, Professor in Graduate College, Emeritus Professor of Physiology and Neuroscience (since September, 2010), Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

2010: Retirement celebration at the University of Illinois.



2011: Invited (keynote) speaker at several conferences in Iran.



Essie and Nooshin at Hamedan, Iran

2013: On November 19th Essie celebrated his 70th birthday at a party held for him in Champaign, IL.



2013: Essie passed away on January 22 at 1:30 a.m. at Carle Foundation Hospital in Champaign, IL.

Dr. Meisami is survived by his wife, Nooshin; daughters, Mona Reilly and Ayda Meisami; grandchildren, Mariam, and Mark; brother, Abbas; and sister Mahboubeh. He will not only be missed by his family and friends but by countless others whose life was touched by him. May his soul rest in peace and patience and strength be provided to all of his loved ones as we know there are many.

به خانه می‌روم، غمگین و خسته، دست خالی،
باز هم امشب، چراغی کشته را مانم،
که در ماتم‌سرا، خاموش خاموش است.
بیاد عشق‌های گمشده،
شب تا سحر، در پيله تنه‌ایم،
تنه‌ای، تنه‌ایم
کنار آینه، ... هرگز!
من از دیدار سیمای خودم، بیزار بیزارم
سخن از بستر بیماری و شب‌های تاریک است و رنج افزا.
خیال رفتگان، امواج غم را، می‌دواند عمق رگ‌هایم
ملالی بی‌نهایت، همچو شمعی می‌زند سوسو،
درون دل، گریزان می‌کند آرامش از جانم.
دریغا...! خشکسالی سوخته، بذرا امیدم را.

همه پیوندهای سبز من یکسر، سیه گشته
همه آوندهای، ذهن من، عطر طراوت را هدر داده
و من در تنگنای، دره‌ی ژرف هراسانی،
زسوز تشنگی، در اشتیاق قطره‌ای آب گل آلودم
ملول از جان شیرین،
چون گشودم دفتر حافظ،
پیام آمد:
جهان پیر است و بی بنیاد،
زین فرهاد کش فریاد.
که کرد افسون و نیرنگش،
ملول از جان شیرینم.
و شاهد هم در این معنی چنین آمد:
حدیث آرزومندی که در این نامه ثبت افتاد،
همانا بی غلط باشد که حافظ کرده تلقینش.

جواد جعفری آنرمهر

If you wish to contribute and add more information to his legacy please visit the following website (prepared by his beloved daughter, Mona):

www.essiemeisami.com

