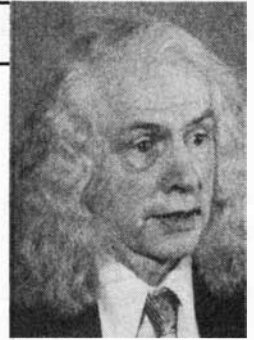

In Memory



Dr. Robert Moon 1912-1989

by Jonathan Tennenbaum

The wealth of any nation is in its people. The United States, and the whole world, have lost a precious jewel: a brilliant man of science, an inventor, a teacher, a beautiful soul who radiated to everyone around him his deep love for people and for all of God's Creation.

Dr. Moon was a scientist from head to toe. For him, science and the love of God were one and the same thing. To discover how our Universe is organized, and to construct some remarkable device based on a new discovery, that might improve the lives of people—was the joy of his life. He was always working, and he loved his work immensely. He possessed in the highest degree that rare, childlike quality of playfulness and enthusiasm which is the mark of a creative thinker and teacher.

Robert Moon's enthusiasm was contagious, and he knew it. He loved nothing more than to share his joy in science with everyone around him, and especially with young people. I shall never forget one night at a childrens' camp in Virginia, when Dr. Moon was taking some of his young friends on an exciting guided tour of the planets and stars using the camp's telescope. As the night went on, his pupils retired to bed, one by one. I woke up just before dawn, and glanced out the window: Lo and behold! There was Dr. Moon, alone, still standing at the telescope, absorbed in the study of some important phenomenon up there in the heavens.

It has become a cliché to talk about "great Americans." But if we ask ourselves, what the United States has meant to the world in a positive sense, then Dr. Moon shines out as a brilliant example. He was an American scientist in the best sense of "American." For him, all of science was summed up in the verb "to create." He knew no distinction between the "theoretical" and the "practical." In the most abstract physical concepts he saw hypothetical designs for technologies that might benefit mankind, and in the tiniest detail of an engineering problem he recognized the reflected image of universal law. He was committed to the republican conception of science, and insisted that science belonged to all the people, and not to some hermetic caste of specialists.

Obsessive pursuit of fame and prestige, instead of truth, has greatly damaged the practice and teaching of science in recent years. Dr. Moon did not enjoy the dubious honor of

being a "star" of the scientific community. Yet, his discoveries and inventions have benefitted humanity more than the work of many a Nobel Prize-winner. His contributions to electromagnetic technology, to physical chemistry and materials science, to the development of nuclear energy, medical technology, and biophysics—just to name a few of fields in which he worked—have affected our daily lives far more than most of us could imagine. Few people realize, for example, that the X-ray scanning machine which is now a routine instrument in any well-equipped hospital, was Dr. Moon's original invention.

In his last years Dr. Moon made a fundamental contribution to the understanding of the structure of the atomic nucleus. This work summed up a lifetime of thinking about how to realize nuclear fusion as the principal energy source of mankind. Soon after the first publication of his nuclear model came the announcement of the discovery of high-temperature superconductors, and then, a bit later, the sensational news of "cold fusion." What joyful events these were for Dr. Moon! The scientist who assisted at the birth of nuclear energy, lived to witness the beginnings of a new scientific and technological revolution, coming along exactly the lines he had worked on for half a century.

Dr. Moon loved his country and worked for its best interest throughout his life. In many ways he played a decisive role in the growth of a political movement, upon which the future existence of United States, in large measure, now depends. The illegal closing of the Fusion Energy Foundation (whose scientific journal he edited), and the political persecution of Lyndon LaRouche, by agencies of the U.S. government, were a heavy blow to Dr. Moon. But he never gave up hope that the United States would once again become the "Temple of Liberty," for the sake of whose preservation he had once joined the Manhattan Project. He celebrated the first legal victory, reversing the government's bankruptcy proceedings, just a few days before his death on Oct. 31, 1989.

Dr. Moon was above all a beautiful soul, who never thought of gain to himself, but only of what he could give to others. He was an inspiration and a precious friend to those who knew him, and a profound loss to us all.