

ネヴィンス教授からのメッセージ (1998年5月28日)

Yoshio Masuda

Yoshio, I wish it were possible for me to participate in the celebration of your contributions, specifically to Tezukayama during these past few years but in addition this occasion offers an opportunity to reflect on your amazingly successful career and to acknowledge all the contributions you have made professionally and personally. It is my pleasure to be able to convey and add my accolades at this event. You are truly an international person and a significant figure in the field of plant biology. It is difficult to summarize such a career in a few words.

I feel a special affinity toward you because of many reasons. You and Reiko have been so kind to me and my family over the years. Sylvia, Jennifer and Stephanie appreciate, more than you might realize, the kindness and hospitality. We all recall with great fondness the arrangements and personal attention you gave to the enrollment of Jennifer and Stephanie at Kita Shirakawa elementary school almost 25 years ago. On a more profound level we appreciated all the insights you have provided to us to enable us to appreciate Japan. You took us places, showed us things and introduced us to people which greatly enriched our experience. We have a tremendous affinity for the Japanese culture as a result of what you did.

Over the years you have fostered a significant way of scientific thinking and the ability to refine and prioritize ideas to focus on salient points. Your experiments on plant growth and development are keystone studies. Moreover you have demonstrated a remarkable ability for linguistic expression and have actively engaged in other diverse avocations. Your interest in antique books, the history of biology and European culture have made you indeed a renaissance man. Over the years you have provided me an important point of reference about which to direct my efforts. You have made possible the way for extensive collaboration. The people who have graduated under your mentorship have become some of my closest friends and I appreciate the significant accomplishments that are a direct result of this relationship. Your enlightenment has been an important component of what I have been able to contribute to science. It has been my privilege and pleasure to have had this relationship with you I am happy to consider you as both a mentor and colleague.

As I reflect on your career with admiration and respect I am glad that you are receiving the recognition bestowed on you at this occasion. I feel however that the scientific community in general should be even more appreciative of your role as a leader and innovator in plant biology. Science is so intent on progressing toward the future or the latest technique that it has a hard time coming to grips with the process of bestowing recognition for achievements of those like you that have provided the foundation for what we know. I hope that in some measure I can convey to you my appreciation for all of what you have accomplished. My feelings are shared by many many others.

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