

## Farewell to Teoman, from a brother

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Dear Teoman,

You arrived in this transient world later than me; and while I was just about to migrate due to my recent health status, you separated from this community earlier than me, as if you were racing! This event also showed that justice does not exist.

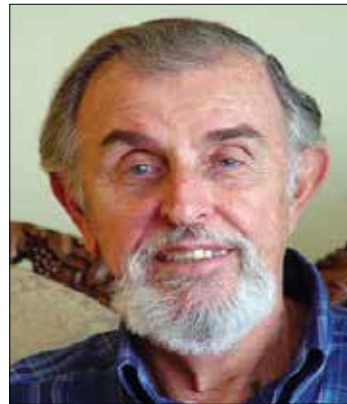
Although hastiness has been one of your characteristics, your superior intelligence, solid judgment, disciplined work, as well as your interest in various fields of art, your bubbling feelings, your elating approach, your interest in communicating with people surrounding you, all led swiftly to a sense of closeness among your acquaintances.

You followed me to Zurich, Switzerland, for medical education. In the period of postgraduate training, you assumed at a young age, along with two colleagues, an identity of brilliant scientist: you co-authored an international book published in 4 languages, ultimately receiving the Schleussner prize in Montreal. Upon return to Turkey, you taught for 35 years in this faculty, you educated and trained students you can be proud of. You assumed for a while the Chair of the Turkish Pediatrics Institute.

You founded the section of pediatric cardiology at the Pediatric Clinic of the Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty. Important research you undertook in the field of "growth and development in adolescence" made you receive in 1976 the prestigious Eczacıbaşı Award for Medicine.

As president of the Association of European Pediatric Cardiologists, you organized that same year in İstanbul its annual congress with success. I can hardly forget to have somewhat spoiled your satisfaction at the closing night of the congress, by regrettably sustaining an acute myocardial infarction.

Our society has for long been harboring characteristics of presenting unjust criticisms and hindering to forefront personalities, rather than supporting their full development. The frustration created by this setting, probably led to some lack of fervor in your scientific career, preventing you from producing



**Teoman Onat is depicted here in a photo of about 5 years ago**

maximal efficiency, as well as to certain concerns in associations with your close surrounding.

Your personality had many facets: your proneness and interest in art –as much as to medicine–enriched your life in the past 25 years. In the area of stamp collection, your publications and exhibitions of your "History of cardiology in philately" had received much echo inland and inter-

nationally. Ever since youth, you enjoyed playing piano, unlike my sister with a formal training, composing arrangements to pieces of jazz leaders. Later in life as an emeritus, you were engaged in artistic fields beyond being a musician. First you published a valuable book comprising your memoirs. For some time your focus was on modeling busts and small sculptures from clay. Further on, you became concentrated to successfully produce oil paintings. Most recently, for many years, artistic photography has been a major hobby and attraction for you. Showing them with explanation to your acquaintances was a great joy for you. You did not neglect to make effort in organizing to getting together with your old classmates.

A little-deserved traffic accident and a long-lasting cervical spine surgery created adverse effects your age and constitution could not tolerate.

Your daughter and son one can pride, your relatives and friends, and young colleagues you enlightened, will fondly recall your spirit. I wish condolence to the entire medical community. Rest with illumination and in peace, brother Teoman.

