Memorial Address

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Our great writer, Anton P. Chekhov, once mentioned that in Russia there are people who do not meet each other for years and nevertheless are really good friends. Might be, this is true internationally. For me, our late T. Kuroda was such a friend.

Reading his papers many years ago I felt not only a scientist working close in the topic but also a person whose general approach was closely related to the one of myself. It was very easy to understand him when we first discussed in Japan in 1974.

We have met each other only few times before October 1989 when I visited him in Sapporo. These were wonderful days. In his group, there was an atmosphere of scientific enthusiasm and depth, simultaneously. This was an atmosphere which reminded me the relations between experienced good friends walking through taiga for many days or rafting down a wild rivers hundreds of kilometers. Everybody knows his duties. Everybody look for what should be done next. Everybody watches after security of the other. Everybody appreciate another’s human quality and skills. Everybody trust to the Cap who, at a first glance, is just an ordinary member of the team but actually has greater potential which becomes visible only when a real difficulty should be overcome. This Cap was Kuroda.

Back after dinner with, colleagues and students in a huge beer restaurant and discussing life philosophys I discovered a person living with the same moral camarion. We both, I beleive, were happy. I was then sure that God gave me one close friend more.