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小小细节彰显大师风范

2007诺贝尔奖获得者北京论坛散记

本报记者 滕继濮

何谓“大师”？《辞海》中这样解释：有巨大成就而为人所景仰的学者或艺术家。2007诺贝尔奖获得者北京论坛中亮相的科学家就是大师；不仅如此，大师之风还在他们的生活细节中处处彰显。

盖博·索马杰：幽默破尴尬

“你们谁提问？我请客喝啤酒！”这是美国国家科学奖章、美国物理学会兰茂尔奖获得者盖博·索马杰教授鼓励到场听众踊跃提问时的话。

在9月12日的能源与环境学识论坛上，索马杰发表了题为《表面科学和表面技术：能源转换的最优媒介，清洁环境的实现手段》的演讲，由于话题颇有深度，所以一度形成了“曲高和寡”的局面。演讲完毕后，索马杰教授特意留出了听众提问时间，可是“羞涩”的观众们迟迟没有举手，看到这样的情况，索马杰教授说：“我不是经常来到中国，所以我想知道你们想知道什么。你们谁提问？我请客喝啤酒！”台下一片笑声，索马杰的机智与幽默打破了现场尴尬的气氛，举手者络绎不绝。

理查德·杰尔：上班骑单车

“您怎样去上班，是公共汽车还是开车？”

“骑自行车！”理查德·杰尔一边回答一边蹒跚着比划起骑车状，博得全场的笑声与掌声。

美国斯坦福大学教授理查德·杰尔是最早采用激光研究化学反应取得成就的科学家之一，近年来在超微量分析化学方面也取得显赫成就，他的研究促使分析化学成为一门精密的科学。

此次杰尔演讲的题目是《全球变暖之我见》，而他自己也在生活中实践着环保与健康的生活方式。

“1987年我跟夫人第一次到北京来的时候，感觉北京到处都是自行车，现在都是汽车，变化真的挺大的。”杰尔赞叹北京的变化，并提醒大家，“一个人开着很大的车可不是什么好现象，有的人把车看作是身份的象征就更糟糕了。”

“当我还是小孩的时候，对于保护大自然没有那么强的意识，现在不能如此这般了，我们确实可以为保护环境做点什么……”杰尔的结语语重心长。

于渌：幻灯翻页员

于渌，第三世界科学院院士、中国科学院院士、中国科学院理论物理研究所研究员，一位清瘦的老者，一位目光炯炯的大师。在这位老科学家的言行中，处处体现着中国科学家身上的低调与谦卑。

作为沃尔特·科恩演讲的主持人，在科恩的演讲开始前，身着朴素正装的于渌一直默默坐在听众席上。登台后，于渌的开场白更是淡化自己，“各位下午好，我的名字叫于渌。在中国科学院理论物理研究所工作，我自己研究的课题跟这次讨论的主题没有关系，叫我来做主持人的原因是我跟今天主讲人是多年的朋友……”简明介绍后，于渌随即隐于幕后。

由于沃尔特·科恩年事较高，不戴花镜无法为幻灯片翻页，此时于渌走至台前，恭敬地站在科恩前，认真地为老朋友翻页。二十分钟内，用英文阐述的科恩每讲完一段，于渌总是刚好翻至翌篇。科恩演讲完毕，于渌又带动全场热烈鼓掌。

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DETAILS SHOWING GRACEFULNESS OF DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS
NOTES OF NOBEL LAUREATE BEIJING FORUM 2007

Science and Technology Daily Reported by Jipu Teng

What makes a scientist distinguished? As a scholar, he must have had great achievements and gained a lot of respect to become a distinguished scientist. All attendants in the Nobel Laureate Beijing Forum 2007 are distinguished scientists; they are showing gracefulness in all the details of their daily lives.

Gabor Somorjai: Breaking Ice by Humor

“Who can ask a question? I will treat him to beer!” This was how Professor Gabor Somorjai encouraged the audience to ask questions. He is the winner of both National Science Medal of the USA and Langmuir Prize from the American Physical Society.

At the Energy and Environment Forum in September 12th, Somorjai delivered a speech named “Surface Science and Surface Technology: Favorite Media of Energy Conversion and Processes for a Clean Environment”. Because the contents were profound, it was not easy for the audience to understand. After the speech, Professor Somorjai set aside a time for questions, but the listeners were too “shy” to lift their hands. Knowing this situation, Professor Somorjai said: “I do not come to China often, so I am wondering what you want to know. Who can ask a question? I will treat him to beer!” The audience burst to a big laughter. Somorjai’s smartness and humor broke the ice. Then the listeners asked questions one after another.

Richard Zare: Bicycle to Work

“How do you go to work, by bus or by car?”

“By bicycle!” Richard Zare mimicked riding a bicycle in stagger while answering the question, which gained laughter and applause from the entire audience.

Professor Zare from Stanford University in the US is one of the first successful scientists in utilizing laser to investigate chemical reactions. In recent years he achieved great success in ultra-micro analytical chemistry. His research helps analytical chemistry become precise science.

The title of Zare’s speech was “My Thoughts on Global Warming”. He is practicing environment-friendly and healthy behaviors in his daily life.

“When my wife and I first came to Beijing in 1987, we found that bicycles were everywhere. Now there are automobiles everywhere, which is a big change.” Zare complimented Beijing’s change with a reminder, “It is not good to have a single person drive a big car, and it is even worse to think a car as a symbol of social status.”

“When I was a child, I did not have such a strong mind on protecting the nature. But now it should not be like that. We really can do something to protect the environment.” Zare’s kind-hearted conclusion meant a lot to us.

Lu Yu: Slide Scroller

Lu Yu, Member of the Third World Academy of Science, Member of Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), Research Scientist of the Institute of Theoretical Physics of CAS, is a slender and energetic elder distinguished scientist. In every aspect, he was showing typical Chinese scientists' humbleness.

As the moderator for Walter Kohn's speech, Lu Yu was in a plain formal dress and quietly sitting in the audience before the speech started. When introducing the speaker, he began with very humble words, "Good afternoon. My name is Lu Yu and I am working in the Institute of Theoretical Physics of CAS. My projects are not related to the topic of this forum. I was appointed the moderator because the speaker and I have been friends for many years." Right after the brief introduction, Yu Lu went back to the audience.

Because of his age, Walter Kohn could not turn slides without wearing glasses. After realizing this fact, Lu Yu came to the podium to turn slides for his old friend. He was standing respectfully while working with carefulness. In the twenty minutes of Kohn's speech, Lu Yu always turned slides on time. When Kohn completed his speech, Yu Lu led the audience break into a warm applause.