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The Brilliant Zewail, pp. 123-132 (2019)

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# CHAPTER 9: AHMED ZEWAIL — OUR PRIDE

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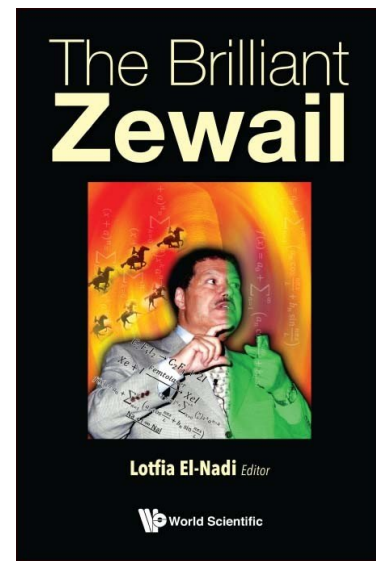
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## Abstract:

The Ohio State University (OSU) has been holding the International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy for over 60 years and is made popular by scientists all over the world. As I was heading for coffee and donut break at the symposium about nine years ago, I stumbled upon a picture of a smiling face with dark hair on a photo stand, placed on a table right outside the break room. My eyes were fixed with pleasure as below the picture read 'Ahmed Zewail Prize' in a large font. "A distinguished Muslim personality



**The Brilliant Zewail**

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promoting science?”, I thought. I wasn’t aware of Zewail’s contributions then. About a year later, I was reading an interesting article in Science magazine, which elaborated on the dream project of bringing a renaissance of science, technology and innovations to the regions of Middle East and Africa through a center, and with wide support from the international scientific community; name of the dreamer surfaced — Ahmed Zewail from California Institute of Technology (Caltech). My respect and curiosity grew deeper. He was the Linus Pauling Chair professor of Chemistry and professor of Physics at Caltech, and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999. I knew immediately — Ahmed Zewail is our pride.

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