

**Speech Given at the *Memorial Service* for
Prof. Dr. Alexander Rubinov,
November 28, 2006,**

at the Occasion of the
***5th Ballarat Workshop on Global and Non-Smooth Optimization:
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**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear Dr. Dzalilov, degerli Zari Hamm, dear colleagues, dear friends,**

please let us firstly have a 3 minutes of personal stillness while I would like to show to us some impressions from the last years which I collected.

“The days of our lives *are* seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they* are eighty years, Yet their boast *is* only labour and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away”: so Moses the man of God in a prayer says, it is Psalm 90 Vers 10.

“The days of our lives *are* seventy years; And if by reason of strength *they* are eighty years, Yet their boast *is* only labour and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away”.

And according to Vers 9, “we have finished our years like a sigh”.

Now, our dear husband, father, grandfather, teacher and friend Prof. Dr. Alexander Rubinov became 66 years old. Everyone of us, who came from Australia but also from any place on earth to Barallat and is with us today, wished so much that 70 or 80 or more years would have been given to him – our “sigh” that he suffered so much and left us so early was very big - and loud. But weren’t these 66 years a “complied” time?

A hard time: yes, especially, in the last months – to Iceland, we saw the slides, he could not come anymore because of the disease; it was never easy for Prof. Rubinov: Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Israel, finally, Australia, but it was a fulfilled time, with unique, valuable and unforgettable footprints everywhere, a time full of satisfaction for his closest ones but also for those who were farest ones firstly. I was such a farest one for him when I, a young member of the group EUROPT, approached him, the famous scientist.

He helped me directly, so modestly and without any attitude of superiority, and he helped so many far ones and we all became closest ones to him. What many other people cannot achieve in 100 and more years given to them, he achieved in that shorter life which God gave to him: to gain the heart of so many ones from all over the world.

Indeed, Professor Alexander Rubinov could hardly say No, when being asked for help: In this world of egoism, of selfishness and cold hearts, this seems to be a disability, but wasn't it a wonderful, a magnificent gift given to him, the gift of understanding and having patience, to share time, the gift to share resources of any kind, to share scientific excellence and personal perspectives and to give a vision to the lives of 10s, of 100s and of 1000s and of many many more ones.

Please allow me a personal word which became clear to me in these days, here in Ballarat: God promised to Abraham that he will make him a father of many nations [e.g., Genesis 13, Verses 4-17, Galatians 3], and everyone who is doing well to Abraham will be blessed by him. Indeed, all of us who are gathered here and so many further ones: we are blessed by Professor Alexander Rubinov, have received so many goods through him. And God says to Moses that he made his people as much as the stars in the sky, and will even make many 1000 times more [Deuteronomy 1 Verses 9-11]. And, isn't everyone of us such a star, aren't there stars in almost all nations giving witness about what Professor Alexander Rubinov did to us and spreading his scientific and personal message?

We all love Prof. Dr. Alexander Rubinov from the bottom of our heart, we express our deep gratitude to him, an extraordinary scientist and a best friend of each of us,

and we express our deep gratitude also to his dear widow Dr. Zari Dzalilov that he could be absent from home at the occasions of all his works, visits and helps that he spent, and we wish to you, dear Zari Hanım, and to all your family members a warm and most precious and closest consolation.

We are there for you, here and now, and whenever you may need us. Shalom! And God, the Lord, bless you!