

■ GUEST IN TOWN

Nasim: heralding revolutionary ideas

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The resume of Dr Anwar Nasim is not one to scoff at. As a geneticist, he is currently serving as an adviser of the Organisation of Islamic Committee (OIC) Standing Committee of Science and Technology Cooperation (COMSTECH). For the past 30 years, he has been actively involved in investigations at research centres in Canada. On top of all this, not only has he found time to compose several short stories, he has also written a thesis on how to improve lives in third world countries.

Tired of depending on and having been failed by various governments, Dr Anwar Nasim's radical idea focuses on Non-Governmental Individuals (NGIs), where the people themselves reject the government and take matters into their own hands to improve their lives. "The government can help only up to a point," he believes. "To depend upon the government is an unfair and unrealistic approach to the problem."

According to Dr Nasim, both individuals and NGOs can work together towards a welfare society, as well as promoting science and technology, to improve the well-being of the communities they live in. In his written works, Dr Nasim highlighted the examples of the contributions made in the fields of science and by Professor Abdus Salam, Dr Noman Borlaug, and Dr Swaminathan to support his argument. "Such names serve to illustrate the point of NGIs," he said.

Dr Nasim's passion for the idea is evident not only in his thesis but in all his other output. Several of his Urdu short stories dis-



Dr Anwar Nasim

cuss the role of individuals (whose many actions serve to promote the well-being of society). Even by focusing on characters at an individual level, Dr Nasim still manages to write about broader issues such as social injustice, failures of life, and the way downtrodden are so often overlooked. His collection of short stories 'Woh Qurbatain, Ye Faasle' is an excellent depiction of this.

He writes about characters who sacrifice themselves for others in his moving book of short stories, Dharti Aur Aakash, and life's tragedies form a central theme of his stories. Rahe khizan mein talashe bahar, Aik sohana supna toota, Pathar kay log, and Sufaid hawaili. These are characters whose dreams are never allowed to die and who fight for what they believe in at all costs. It is a style that has led critics to label the stories 'idealistic', but this has not deterred Dr Nasim. As long as he is able to write, he will continue to do what he can to serve humanity.