

Manabgenome : Manusher Gene Gener Manush

(A book on how the human genome shapes the body and the mind)

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The book is written for people who have no prior exposure to science and thus contains simplifications and uses metaphors and non-scientific examples to elucidate gene, genetics and genome. Starting with a very basic exposition of genetics, the book then delves into human genome and its sequencing. After scouring the human genome for important genes, the author defines the role of each of the 23 pairs of chromosomes that constitute the human genome.

Human genes, important for hereditary diseases as well as those important for behavioural traits such as dyslexia, irrational fear, and memory are explained in a simple and lucid language, often delving into philosophical conjectures. The result is that part genetics textbook and part speculations on human nature are all spiced with humour and the author's own viewpoint based on his own life experience.

The author discovered a new gene recD while he was a Ph.D. student in the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle and the University of Oregon. The discovery of this gene and his interaction with the luminaries of the modern gene technology motivated him to write this stimulating book. His strong belief that writing this difficult topic-of-day in his mother tongue will serve a better purpose to awaken all those who are concerned with development and promotion of science, has been indeed exemplary. He has shown that given will power and determination, it is possible to expose difficult topics like "human genome" to readers at several intellectual levels in an easy-to-understand captivating language. Slowly, through autobiographical revelations he takes readers through scientific conferences, gossips, ideas and finally his own sense of wonder, and curiosity as discoveries, all woven into an exciting and personalized way.

This small book is unique in its kind in Bengali. Aspiring students of science will find the book stimulating and thought-provoking in its contents and the style in which it has been written. University students who would like to

pursue a career in molecular biology will find it a good introduction to genetics in general and human genetics in particular. Readers of popular science books who have no scientific background will find it equally interesting as it will open up before them a newly emerging exciting area of science. The book will sparkle the imagination of those interested in human origin, evolution and behaviour. They will be able to satiate their curiosity by reading this book with an open mind.

Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, the popular writer of Science fiction book and a Professor of Shah Jalal University, has written the introduction.

We recommend this book to all college and university libraries. Research institutes will also provide a good reading material by acquiring this book in their libraries. This book will be a proud possession to any individual interested in the latest development of biological science. The book is also recommended for all Bengali-speaking people, wherever they are regardless whether they are within or outside Bangladesh. Comments regarding the book can be sent to the author at achaudhury@hotmail.com.

– A. S. Islam