

Book review

Julian Chela-Flores: *Astrobiology and Humanism. Conversations on Science, Philosophy and Theology.*

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Astrobiology, by aiming to understand the origins of life and searching for life elsewhere, offers the beauty to question a large panel of open-minded people who share Gauguin's title of painting: *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?* Thus, astrobiology offers the possibility to scientists, philosophers, humanists and theologians to exchange their views. The Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), in Trieste, is one of the rare places where such exchanges can take place.

Julian Chela-Flores, in contact with ICTP as early as in 1968, and then as Staff-Associate of the Center, was at the heart of fruitful exchanges. As such, he had the privilege to meet prestigious pioneers in astrobiology as well as several Nobel laureates. He organized a series of conferences at the ICTP on chemical evolution and the origin of life from 1992 to 1994 with Cyril Ponnamperna, from 1995 to 1998 with François Raulin, and from 2001 to 2003 with François Raulin and Tobias Owen. Pictures taken during these meetings are reproduced in the book as historical and emotional testimony.

The author's contacts with great religious personalities such as Pope John Paul (at the University of Trieste) and with Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini in Milan, enriched the author's reflections on the frontier of science and religion.

During his scientific career, Julian Chela-Flores reached a personal philosophy of life and humanism by conversing with outstanding persons. Presently, he is eager to share his achievement with the public.

I strongly recommend the book, where the author delivers the content and messages of his fruitful conversations.

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