

SECULAR HUMANIST PHILOSPHER

Ravela Somayya

The sudden death of Dr. Paul Kurtz on 20th October in USA at the age of 86 is a great loss to the world Humanist Movement. He was a renowned philosopher and founder editor of “Free Inquiry” magazine. He was the founder of a publishing house Prometheus Books which was intended to propogate the values of Humanism, Secularism and free Inquiry. He was also the founder of Institute for Science and Humanism. He was the author of 40 books. He was the founder of Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, Council for Secular Humanism and Center for Inquiry. He was the co – editor of Humanist Manifesto an updated version 1933 Original.

I became an admirer by reading his articles in the “Radical Humanist” magazine since two decades. I met him in 1997 at Buffalo, NY state USA along with two other Indian friends, and discussed about Humanist and Socialist Movements. This interview was fixed by my friend Dr. N. Innaiah.

Just as renowned social psychologist Dr. Erich Fromm introduced socialist component into the Humanist Movement, Dr. Paul Kurtz Introduced secular component into the Humanist Movement. Dr. Paul Kurtz was not nearly an academic philosopher but was also a great activist. He travelled all over the world propagating secular humanist values. He attended a world Humanist Conference in Mumbai.

We should study the ideas and ideals of Dr. Erich Fromm and Dr. Paul Kurtz of the West, Humanist thinker M.N. Roy and socialist thinker Dr. Rammanohar Lohia of the East, in order to build a New Human Civilization and for the development of a New Human Culture.