

# VLADIMIR EVGEN'EVICH FORTOV



(23.01.1946 – 29.11.2020)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in a cursive style. The signature is highly stylized and difficult to read, but it appears to be the name of the person in the portrait above.

## ***IN MEMORY OF VLADIMIR EVGEN'EVICH FORTOV***

*A year ago, the scientific community of Russia and of the entire world suffered a heavy, irreparable loss: Vladimir Evgen'evich Fortov, the world-famous scientist, academician and 21st President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, full recipient of the Order of Merit to the Fatherland, winner of many prestigious domestic and foreign awards, prizes, and honorary titles, passed away on November 29, 2020.*

*But, above all, with the departure of Fortov, Russian science lost one of its most devoted warriors and defenders, who always did everything possible for the survival, preservation, development, and promotion of Science. As Vladimir Evgen'evich himself wrote: "For me, who has devoted all my life to science, it is indeed a 'living soul!'" And this 'living soul' of Science, its honor and dignity, was defended and protected by Fortov both in relatively prosperous times and in the most difficult times for Russian science. He defended it selflessly and devotedly, recklessly, as they say, 'sparing no effort'....*

*Fortov has not been with us for a year now. The loss is felt more and more deeply. But there are wonderful books by Fortov (and wonderful, lovingly prepared books about him). There remain his reviews and papers, interviews, and broadcasts recorded with him and about him, which will be read and re-read, watched, and listened to by many of those who now continue to do science, and those who will replace the current generation of scientists. In the legacy that Vladimir Evgen'evich left us, every scientist (and quite simply everyone interested in science) will be able to learn something fundamental, interesting, important, and necessary for themselves.*

*V E Fortov was a great friend of the journal "Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk" (UFN, "Physics–Uspekhi" in English translation) for many years, was a member of the Editorial Board and Advisory Board of UFN, and was an author in our journal starting in 1982, having written almost three tens of reviews and papers for UFN. The last review written by Vladimir Evgen'evich for UFN (co-authored with A V Eremin) is published in this issue of the journal, which also contains reviews and papers by Fortov's colleagues on a number of topics that V E was engaged in and interested in.*

*Of course, reviews on all the numerous areas of science to which Fortov made a significant contribution could not be placed in one issue of UFN, but we still hope that the materials in this memorial issue will be interesting and useful to a wide circle of UFN readers.*

*We would like to believe that Vladimir Evgen'evich Fortov himself would have read with interest this special November issue of UFN 2021, which is dedicated to his blessed memory.*