



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dr Rami Saari

I have known Dr Rami Saari personally for more than fifteen years, since he arrived in The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, attended my classes and began working on his Ph.D. thesis under my supervision. Since then I followed closely his various activities and could appreciate his tremendous achievements. Dr Saari is a graduate of the University of Helsinki in Semitic and Finno-Ugric Linguistics (Magna cum Laude), and Ph.D. of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Linguistics (Semitic Languages). Dr Saari is a gifted linguist, with a very special grammatical acumen and research abilities. He accordingly was awarded the most prestigious scholarships. His doctoral dissertation (Summa cum Laude) was on Maltese, based on a detailed perusal of all the Maltese writings, past and present, and on extensive field-work in Malta. He has acquired fluency in Maltese and also employed his vast and thorough knowledge—theoretical and practical—in many languages, and his experience in translating from many languages, and built the study of Maltese on a new basis.

Dr Saari's scholarly and literary activities have largely centred on Hebrew language and literature, extensively translating from many languages into Hebrew, writing monographic studies following such translations, creative writing of Hebrew poetry, and publishing in books and in leading journals and newspapers. Dr Saari has also been representing and coordinating Hebrew literature, mainly poetry, in international forums. At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem he taught Hebrew and Semitic linguistics, Finnish, Catalan, phonology in various levels and syntax, and proved to be an excellent and outstandingly popular teacher and lecturer. In Israel and abroad, Dr Saari takes active part in literary meetings and is greatly appreciated. Rami Saari is a native speaker of Hebrew and a

brilliant Hebrew writer and scholar, a native level speaker of Spanish, Finnish and Modern Greek, and has full command of Albanian, Hungarian, Portuguese and English. His knowledge of all those languages and quite a few others is both practical and learned, with thorough familiarity with the relevant literatures, and he has achieved practical experience and theoretical expertise in the processes of teaching and acquiring languages of various types and the art of translation.

The contribution of Rami Saari in disseminating and fostering language, culture and literature goes far beyond ordinary teaching, and his contribution to Hebrew letters by opening to the Hebrew reader foreign literatures, in some cases single-handed, is unique.

Dr Saari has always developed harmonious relations with colleagues, behaving modestly and willing to cooperate and help. He has been highly successful in attracting students, and having him as member of the faculty would also contribute to various other fields of study.

If Rami Saari is appointed lecturer at your institute, he will certainly contribute to the excellence of the faculty. He is a person of remarkable intellectual qualities and unusual abilities. In my opinion, he is the best candidate you might wish.

*Gideon Goldenberg*