Oppentimer

A magazine dedicated to Robert Oppenheimer

See one of the men who worked on the Manhattan Project











U.S. \$5.99 Canada \$7.99 Mexico 10 Pesos Robert Oppenheimer was born into a wealthy Jewish-American family. He was the scientific director of the Manhattan Project. Robert Oppenheimer is known as "the father of the atomic bomb." After the war, he was chief advisor to the newly- created Atomic Energy Commission. Alex: So you worked with J.J. Thompson, how was that?

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: Well, it was very nice. I also learned that I was very clumsy in the lab area.

Alex: What was it you were diagnosed with before you started your professorship at Berkley?

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: I was diagnosed with a mild case of tuberculosis, so I went and stayed with my brother Frank on a ranch in New Mexico.

Alex: What was the award that Lyndon B. Johnson awarded you?

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: I was awarded the Enrico Fermi Award as a gesture of rehabilitation.

Alex: Why were you under investigation by the FBI and the Manhattan Project internal security?

Dr .Robert Oppenheimer: I was under investigation because of my left-wing associations.

Alex: While working on the Manhattan Project, why did you have information rushed to Truman about the successful test?

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: I had information rushed to President Harry S. Truman because, with the news of a successful test we could use it leverage at the upcoming Potsdam Conference on fate of post-war Europe.

Alex: Why was there a petition going around the lab?

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: Well Alex, a petition was going around the labs in Los Alamos and Oak Ridge because they were pleading the use of the bomb on innocent civilians would be immoral and totally unnecessary.

Alex: How did you feel after the bomb before and after the drop? Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: After the test bomb, Trinity, I had great pride, but after the drop on Japan it was all replaced with guilt and horror. But I do not regret making the bomb.

Alex: Why did you leave Berkley and where did you go after you left?

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: I left Berkley because of difficulties during the war, and I took up the directorship of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

Alex: Why were you asked to resign and why didn't you resign?

Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: I was asked to resign because I was accused of being a security risk. I refused because I wanted a hearing to assessmy loyalty.

Alex: After being stripped of political power what did you do? Dr. Robert Oppenheimer: Well, I continued to lecture, write, and work on physics. I toured Europe and Japan, giving talks about the history of science, the role of science in society, and the nature of the universe.

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