Epilogue

When we know of a person’s success or failure and his enthusiasm for his work, especially when we can see the results of his work, it is unfortunate if we cannot always feel his thoughts and doubts and respect him for his work. Yet, we recall the sorrow and emotions that we felt upon first viewing the person’s work weaken and fade with the passage of time. During my research and travels, I often took notes with the intention of retaining these precious impressions and using them as the material for a book reflecting these feelings. However, partially because of my tight business schedule, it was not easy to research and compile a book in an orderly and efficient manner.

I would like to have had more time to polish my words and descriptions. Unfortunately, some of the contents of this volume may be unclear, and some may even have factual errors. Also, I am somewhat embarrassed by my poor sentence structure in English. So, I ask for the reader’s understanding as he or she reads this book.

Some products, such as engines or automobiles, are judged to be failures by this book. It is often difficult to answer the question, “What do you mean by a failure?” A product that does not look or perform well may still sell well and be deemed a success by the marketplace. Similarly, a product that has been critically acclaimed by the automobile reviewers may have a limited commercial life. The reasons behind these different reactions may be extremely diversified and only dimly understood.

Sometimes the only way to arrive at some conclusion on these historical cases is simply to guess about the reason because the true causes of the failures of the products discussed in this book cannot be determined without knowing all the facts and conditions surrounding the product. However, I think that a serious analysis and evaluation of these historical happenings and technologies can still be of benefit to serious thought and reflection, even if some of the facts are unknown.

The author now returns his pen to his desk with many thanks for those people who came before him and devoted their lives to the technology in which he himself has such great interest.
Finally, the author expresses his deepest gratitude for the many people who helped in the publication of this book.

Takashi Suzuki
August 1988
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