



A.P.J. Abdul Kalam: A Man of Multi -Talent

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Avul Pakir Jarmulabdeen. Abdul Kalam was born on 15th October 1931 in Rameswaram a holy place in Madras and now in the state of Tamil Nadu. His father Janab Avul Pakir Jarmulabdeen was a boat owner and he was elected as a member of Panchayat. He became president of civil body due to his nobility of mind and for being a good human being. Kalam learnt many lessons in his childhood from his father. Kalam was the youngest of four brothers and a sister in his family. His ancestors were wealthy but family lost most of its wealth by 1920s. As a young boy he had sell newspapers. In the school he was average student but he had strong desire to learn. He completed his school education from Schwartz Higher secondary school and graduated In Physics from Joseph's College. Then he moved to Madras and studied Aerospace Engineering from MIT. He joined the Aeronautical, Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation as a scientist and became member of the Defence Research and Development Service (DRDS).

He remained unconvinced by his job in DRDO. At the same time he worked as renowned space scientist with Vikram Sarabhai in INCOSPAR. Kalam joined the Indian Space Research organisation (ISRO) as a project director of India's first Satellite Launch Vehicle and launched Rohini Satellite successfully in July 1980. He visited NASA's various centres during 1963 to 1964. He took efforts to develop at the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and SLV-III projects and remained successful.



Raja Ramanna invited Kalam for the first nuclear test Smiling Buddha. He directed the projects like Project Devil and Project Valiant which were sought to develop ballistic missiles. Kalam played a vital role in developing many missiles including Agni, Ballistic Missiles and Prithvi. He also played a major role in India's Pokhran II nuclear tests in 1998. He served as the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and secretary of the Defence Research and Development Organization from July 1992 to December 1999.

Along with eminent cardiologist Soma Raju, Kalam worked and developed a low cost Coronary stent in 1998 which is named an Kalam- Raju stent. About science he said that science is a beautiful gift to humanity, we should not distort it. Thus Abdul Kalam was a key figure in India's weapons development.

Abdul Kalam served as 11th president of the India from 2002 to 2007. He was the first scientist who became President of India. As a president Kalam devised 20 year action plan to achieve economical as well as technical growth and development of India. He never felt like a president during his entire tenure of five years. He always used to say, " I am just an ordinary man , I want to move this place (Rashtrapati Bhawan) people's place and not a presidential palace" .He mixed among the people, interacted in a way that people felt he was one among them. He is known as people's president, post presidency, Dr. kalam resumed his career in writing, teaching and inspiring youth.

After completing the term of successful president, Kalam became a visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong, Ahmedabad, Indore and honorary fellow of Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology Thiruvananthapuram, Professor of Aerospace Engineering at Anna University. He also taught at Hyderabad and Banarus Hindu University.

Kalam now turned towards the youth of India. He in 2012 launched his mission for the youth called the 'What can I Give Movement'. The main object of this mission was to



defeat corruption. He had tremendous faith in the power of youth in constructing the future of a country. Youth often termed a 'Spirit of life' kalam believed that younger's have Ideas, potentials and creativity.

Kalam's views and opinions about the role of youth in making India as most developed country are seen in his one of the best book 'Ignited Minds'. He tried to reach the youth and inspired them to become a good and responsible citizen of India and a noble human being. In his book 'Ignited Minds', he wrote that my strength has been my young teams, further he wrote that the 'untapped' potentials of the youth can be utilized properly to achieve and guided properly. In spite of having skills, resources and talents India is not that much prosperous and developed as it should have been. He tried to motivate the younger's.

He mentioned five areas where Indian youth have great future they are agriculture, education, health technology and the strategic sectors. He used to hold regular meetings with school and college students and shared his Vision 2020. His poem 'Song of Youth' shows how strong faith kalam had on the youth of India.

Abdul Kalam has written several books. The Pen Portrayals written by A.P.J. Abdul kalam include, 'The Wings of Fire which is autobiography, 'Ignited Minds', 'India 2020', 'Scientist to President', 'India My Dream', 'Envisioning and Empowered nation', 'Guiding Souls', 'Children Asks Kalam', 'Indomitable spirit' and 'The scientific Indian' etc. 'Wings of Fire' is about his career. It is a continuing saga, above all his book is guide for the youth. It is pretty much of an open talk in which he shares all his hardships, pain, success and experiences. The book Inspires and motivate all. 'The Luminous sparks' is a book g poems and thoughts of kalam. Through poems he takes his readers to the clear window of his mind. Reader can see his transparent mind flow like waterfall and thoughts dazzling in various colours like rainbow. The poems like 'Pursuit of Happiness' and 'Whispers of Jasmin' present his urges to do duty without the wish of reward. He is very much sensitive and thoughtful poet. His poetic talent is truly unique. Poems are related to



science, youth, technology, human values, love for nation, and nation building. His innate humanity, dedication and selflessness, love, faith and optimism reflected in the 'Life Tree'. In the Poem 'Rock walls' he express Indianness at its fullest. He goes beyond the administrative initiative of the state and says,

'I have no house, only open space.
Filled with truth kindness, desire and dreams!
Desire to see my country developed and great.
Dreams to see happiness and peace around'.

There can no force on the earth that can shatter your dreams.

For his dynamic work he has received seven doctorates from 40 universities. The government of India honoured him with Padma Bhushan In 1981 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1990. He received India's highest civilian honour the Bharatratna for his contribution in research, technology, science and education in 1913.

Abdul Kalam is the most versatile personality and one of the most celebrated men of India. He is beloved by everyone as a writer, scientist and president and overall a good human being and a man of inspiration.

His advice –
Dreams, Dreams, Dreams....
Transform Into thoughts and
Thoughts results Action.

He is called as Missile Man, people's President. His face of simplicity and his down to earth attitude touched everyone's heart. Kalam will remain Youth Icon and role model for Indian youth.

References -

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