

LIFE OF APJ ABDUL KALAM

Anjali Maria Antony - IX

“Dreams are not which you see in sleep but it is the thing that does not let you sleep”

These lines are rightly said by the “Missile Man” of India, APJ Abdul Kalam, who has experienced this in his life. Abdul Kalak ji, who was born on 15th October, 1931 to a poor couple was the youngest of the five children of a Muslim boat owner Jainulabudeen and his wife Ashiamma who resided in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu. Kalam grew up in humble surroundings and had to work while he was still in school in order to augment his family’s meager income. He distributed newspapers to help his father in providing for the family. Even under such unsupportive circumstances, Kalam had huge dreams and worked hard to achieve them. He proceeded to be a bright boy, blessed with thirst of knowledge and was eager to learn new things. After his higher studies in aerospace at Madras Institute of Technology, Kalam joined the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) as a Scientist from where he was transferred to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and then back to DRDO where due to his works and researches he became the “Missile Man” of India.

Kalam – the President and the man

In 2002 Abdul Kalam was fielded as a candidate in the Presidential election which he won by a handsome margin. After becoming the President of India, Kalam donated all his salaries and savings to a Trust he had founded called PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas). He did so because he knew that he would be looked after by the State till the end of his life and so he thought his salaries and savings could be used for better things. He was not only an exemplary leader but also a great human who was known for his simplicity. Though he was India’s President, he never flaunted it. He refused to sit on special chair and insisted to be seated alongside others during special occasions. During a trip to his home place upon becoming the President, he visited his cobbler, George whom he used to interact with in his childhood. He also met a hotel owner from whose hotel, he

used to have food while at his job. He also invited them as “Presidential Guests” to Kerala’s Raj Bhawan. Once when a subordinate of Kalam at DRDO could not accompany his children to an exhibition due to work pressure, Kalam who was his boss at that time surprised him by fulfilling his children’s wishes. This shows how simple and humane APJ Abdul Kalam was.

Captivating Speaker

Kalam was a great speaker. His famous simple speeches were inspiring and at the same time understandable to all. His method of answering was quite interesting. When asked by someone that what is a ‘birthday’ according to him, he answered, “The only day in your life, when our mother smiled when you cried”. Only a great person can answer like that.

A great inspiration

Abdul Kalam was a great inspiration to all of us. Even though he is not with us now, he is remembered and respected by people around the globe. Though his life, hard work and endeavors he proved that the only that is between a person and his future is the person himself. Here is Abdul Kalam’s message to all those who feel disgruntled due to failure,:

“If you fail, never give up because F.A.I.L means, “First attempt in learning:”. End is not the end. In fact E.N.D means, “Effort never dies”. If you get no as an answer, remember N.O means “Next Opportunity”.

APJ Abdul Kalam

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Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam – Five Stories on the missile man’s legacy

Nitin Lakra, Avinash Lakra, Ryan Steve Braganza, Jyoti Yamini Beck

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam the missile man who redefined the Presidency, crafted a political idiom that spoke to children in a country growing young former President Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam who became popular as people’s President died today after he suffered a massive cardiac arrest and collapsed during a lecture at the IIM here this evening.

Kalam, who would have turned 84 in October, was confirmed dead more than two hours after he was wheeled into the ICU of Bethany hospital in a critical condition following the collapse at around 6.30 PM.

It was a setting that had defined his life, first as a scientist and then as India’s 11th President. It was also one that summed up his final moments. On the dais was Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, delivering the first lines of a lecture on sustainable development, to be followed by a trademark interaction with over 135 students from the Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RG-IIM) in Shillong.

“Tomorrow if I address a group of youngsters and talk about the flag flying in my heart and how I will uphold the dignity of the nation, I can get them to dream. But if I talk to people who are 40, 50 or 70 plus, it will not go down that well. Also, the youth have fewer biases about their society as compared to the grown-ups,” said Kalam.

I believe every President before me contributed something in their respective fields same in politics, same in education and others in social services said Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

(name not written)

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam the 11th President of India was born on 15th October, 1931 in Madras, Ramnad District. He died on 27th July 2015 at the age of 83 at Shillong, Meghalaya in India. Professionally he was an author, professor and an Aerospace scientist. A carrier scientist turned reluctant politicians, Kalam was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu and studied physics and aerospace engineering. He is known as missile man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. He also played a pivotal organizational, technical and political role in India's Pokkaram II nuclear tests in 1998. The first since the original nuclear test by India in 1974. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was elected as the 11 President of India in 2002 with the support of both the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party and the opposition Indian National Congress. Some of his famous lines were;-

- Dreams are not the one that we see with our closed eyes but one which does not let you sleep.
- Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident.
- Life is a difficult game, you can win it only by retaining your birth right to be a person.
- Man needs his difficulties because they are necessary to enjoy success.
- You have to dream before your dream can come true.

A.P.J Abdul Kalam (15th October 1931-28th July, 2015)

Dr.A.P.J Abdul Kalam popularly known as 'Missile Man' born in a middle class family, seen and faced problems and hardships of middle class, never daunted and depressed of failures rose to the height of first citizen of India, the President of India, a visionary, a pragmatist, a poet, a good human being, a complete man. He is the architect of India's integrated missile development programme, recipient of Bharat Ratna, a rare example to today's world, where most of the people are engulfed by mediocrity, hypocrisy, corruption, the likes Dr.Kalam want to conserve. Born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.

Dr.Kalam is religious to a fault and is a rapacious reader of both Bhagwd Gita and the Kuran of the great Tamil Saint Thiruvalluvar. He always shares his achievements and success with his teachers and colleagues. When the award of Bharat Ratna was bestowed on Dr. kalam