

## LIFE PHILOSOPHY OF DR. APJ ABDUL KALAM

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### ABSTRACT

*The research focus of the proposed dissertation is on the life philosophy of the great popular scientist of the Indian nation, great thinker and educationist, Jannayak Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Dr. Kalam took inspiration from many people in his life and gave direction to his life, among whom his parents, Guru, friend, sister and family were prominent. From these people, he learned many countless qualities like simple living, discipline, respect for elders, new knowledge, realization of his responsibilities, sacrifice, dedication, patience, friendship etc. and remained inspired by them throughout his life. Kalam had a multi-faceted and inspirational personality whose life philosophy can even today lead the youth towards the highest peak of life.*

**KEYWORDS:** Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Scientist, India, Philosophy, New Knowledge.

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### Introduction

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, who has an ever youthful nature and is associated with human, national and global concerns, is a source of inspiration for all of us. From being a child born in Rameswaram to becoming the 11th President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's life is an inspirational story of extraordinary determination, courage, dedication and desire for excellence. Abul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was a very simple person who is known in India as a great scientific thinker, educationist and folk hero. He always inspired the young generation with his philosophy of life and ideas related to values, which inspire people of all ages to move forward on the path of karma. Through his writings, he inspires students and youth to move forward in life with knowledge, dedication, hard work, morality, ambition, character building and patriotism. According to him, every big goal can be achieved through knowledge, hard work and effort. APJ Abdul Kalam has beautifully explained in the book Thirukkural that success and wealth find their way and reach the person who has strong will and planned dedication. Luck comes to the person who has indomitable courage and enthusiasm and the courage to never be defeated. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's philosophy of life is an expression. This refers to principles, values and thoughts. Abdul Kalam's philosophy of life comes from knowing about his lifestyle, shows his self-realization, tells about his behavior in his own life and provides information about the people who influenced him.

### Objective of the Study

The objective of the research study is to study the philosophy of life of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

### Literature Review

The researcher has included the study of some excellent books of Dr. Kalam in his research work. In the presented research, the study of the following books has been taken:

- **India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium (1998)** This book tells about Kalam's thoughts for the future of India and developing India.

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- **Wings of Fire (Agni Ki Udaan):** An Autobiography of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (1999) Agni Ki Udaan is an open document of President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's life in which many poignant incidents related to his life have been depicted.
- **HumarePathpardshak:** 2007 highlights the reasons for his greatness. This book draws attention to the unrevealed aspects of Dr. Kalam's personality and life.
- **Adamyasahas (2008):** Adamyasahas is an inspirational depiction of memoirs, interesting incidents, original thoughts and action plans related to life experiences.
- **Turning Points (2012):** This story highlights some aspects of his life and his presidential tenure which have remained unknown till now. He has also given his statement for the first time on many controversial issues.
- **Meri Jeevan Yatra (2013):** Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's autobiography describes every phase of his life. Dr. Kalam has presented the ups and downs of his life in a simple and easy language style. "A Little Dream 2008"- This is an Indian documentary film which depicts the life journey of Indian President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam from Rameswaram to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### Main text Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's Life Philosophy

Former President of India APJ Abdul Kalam was not only the President of India. But he was also a great scientist, thinker, patriot and a good educationist. His contribution in the field of science, art and literature is invaluable. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a man of extraordinary talent. He will be remembered for centuries as a good human being, scientist, litterateur, poet, public leader, patriot and President. He did many works for the benefit of humanity with his simple conduct which makes him an ideal personality.

APJ Abdul Kalam was born in 1931 in a middle class Tamil family in Rameswaram town of Tamil Nadu. His father Jainulabdeen was not very educated but his thoughts were very high. Dr. Kalam learned from his father to adopt qualities like honesty, generosity, brotherhood, gratitude, importance of time and simple living. Mother Ashiamma was a woman of religious nature. From her, Dr. Kalam learned qualities like faith in God, fearlessness in handling responsibilities properly, discipline, sacrifice, dedication etc. which inspired him to lead a good life throughout his life. Abdul Kalam had a total of 5 siblings, including three elder brothers and one elder sister. From a young age, he used to sell newspapers to help the family.

During his school days, he was average in studies. But he was always ready to learn new things. He had a special interest in mathematics. Jalaluddin and Shamsuddin were two such persons who had a deep influence on Dr. Kalam's childhood. They were his close friends. He used to discuss spiritual topics with them. Jalaluddin always told Dr. Kalam about scientific discoveries, contemporary literature and medical science achievements. He was the person who brought Dr. Kalam out of his limited circle and made him aware of the new world. Apart from these two, he was also very inspired by his sister Zohra. Sister Zohra inspired her brother to move forward in every difficult situation and gave selfless support. Dr. Kalam remained grateful to his sister throughout his life. Apart from his parents, teachers and friends, APJ Abdul Kalam was very much influenced by 5 scientists. He considered them as five great souls and always showed his gratitude towards them. These 5 professors were Vikram Sarabhai, Professor Satish Dhawan, Professor Brahma Prakash, Professor NGK Menon and Dr. Rajaramanna. Dr. Kalam's childhood routine shows that he was very fond of discipline. His daily routine started at 4:00 in the morning.

APJ Abdul Kalam considered Bharat Ratna recipient MS Subbulakshmi as his second great mother. He had heard her in the Tyagaraja Samaroh organized in Thanjavur in 1950. After listening to her, Kalam ji believed that the purpose of any raga is to orient the listener's mind towards God and his entire creation. Dr. Kalam took inspiration from many people in his life and gave direction to his life. His mother, father, guru, friend, sister and relatives were prominent among them. From these people, he learned simple living, discipline, respect for elders, importance of time, new knowledge, realization of one's responsibilities, sacrifice, dedication, curiosity, patience, honesty, friends, etc. countless life values. This always inspired him. Dr. Kalam always showed his gratitude towards all these.

### Life Philosophy of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in Different Contexts

- **Simple Life:** Dr. Kalam learned to live a simple life from his father. Dr. Kalam's father believed in ostentation and stayed away from unnecessary luxuries. Kalam's childhood was very carefree and spent in simplicity. When he asked his father about spirituality and religion, both materially

and emotionally, he would explain the complex concepts of spirituality in a very simple way in Tamil. According to him, one should not panic when crisis, sorrow and problem come, one should know the reason for the crisis and do self-analysis. Throughout his life, Dr. Kalam tried to follow the values like simple living, hard work, importance of time, gratitude, sympathy, brotherhood, honesty, discipline, which he learned from his father. The foundation of which was laid in his childhood itself.

- **Wisdom and Soul:** Dr. Kalam was deeply influenced by an incident in his childhood in which he learnt that taking gifts or accepting gifts for any work is very dangerous in life. Dr. Kalam describes wisdom as the light of the soul, which burns in the temple of a person's mind. It is as real as life. When a person behaves against morality, this light protests. Wisdom is the form of truth which comes out of our storehouse in the form of knowledge and turns into our actions and good and bad experiences. That is why he inspires to follow morality.
- **Science and Spirituality:** Dr. Kalam has a clear view regarding science and spirituality. He considered science to be God's greatest boon to humanity. Logic based science is the capital of society. The future of both depends on connecting science and technology with spirituality. He has said in his book *Indomitable Courage* that both science and spirituality want the blessings of the same God for human welfare. That is, in whatever field we work, we have to remain engaged in the service of the common people. Evaluation of all types of knowledge and work is service to the common man. When science is connected to technology, technology is connected to production, production is connected to economy and environment, then prosperity comes in the society. Study of religion and spirituality is also necessary for prosperity in the society. Religion supports science. Therefore, we can say that science and spirituality are connected to each other.
- **Importance of Books:** Books have a very special place in Kalam's life. He has had a close relationship with books. Dr. Kalam has associated himself with them since his youth, which continued till the last stage of his life. Books have always inspired Dr. Kalam. According to him, education is acquired to increase knowledge and change one's thinking. Books prove to be good friends for the curious people who are getting education. Books promote many beliefs and qualities related to life.

Over the years, Kalam read many books but three books were the ones that had a deep impact on him. They are *Light from Many Lamps*, *Tirukkural* and *Man the Unknown*. It is full of knowledge on various subjects of life. Dr. Kalam often referred to this book in difficult situations in his life. According to him, this book brought balance to his thoughts when he was lost in the deep sea of emotions.

- **Self-Reliant Women and Nation Building:** Expressing his views on the role of women in nation building, Dr. Kalam says that today we dream of making India a developed nation. In such a situation, it is necessary for the women of the nation to be empowered and enlightened. Empowered women play an important role in nation building because their thinking, ways of working and life values will lead to progress towards building a good family, a good society and a good nation. Society is affected only when women are empowered. Self-confidence and balance are established in them. That is why education of girls should be given top priority. Dr. Kalam was in favour of organizing training programmes on issues sensitive from the point of view of gender discrimination. In this, the aspects of women and men should be highlighted and it should be told that the collective goal of an organization can be achieved through mutually effective cooperation and contribution.
- **Indomitable Courage:** Dr. Kalam has called upon the countrymen to awaken indomitable courage in their lives. He considered the vision that leads to higher goals of achievement as indomitable courage. The second aspect of indomitable courage is considered the ability to overcome all obstacles in the way of completing the chapter of a goal. When we do not see success anywhere in the distance or there are many obstacles in the way, then in such a situation Dr. Kalam inspires the youth to achieve the goal of life by increasing self-confidence. According to him, a person's strength comes from his self-confidence. With this inspiration, he moves forward in life. A person has to build himself and build his life. You should record your wish on a page. It is possible that that question becomes a very important question of standard history and you are remembered for that one famous creation in the history of the nation.

- **Knowledgeable Society:** Knowledge has been the main motivating element for prosperity and power. That is why knowledge acquisition is given priority all over the world. In our country, the culture of knowledge exchange is very ancient and unique. In the 21st century, a new society is emerging in India. This is being recognized as a knowledge-rich society. In such a society, knowledge is being considered the main source of production instead of complete livelihood. Clarifying the dimensions of a knowledge-rich society, Dr. Kalam explains that in a knowledge-based economy, the objectives of society change. Here, instead of fulfilling the basic needs of overall development, empowerment becomes the objective. Dr. Kalam mentions a 10-point oath for enlightened citizens, by adopting which the countrymen can build a new India. This will make it prosperous and cultured. In the 10-point manifesto, Dr Kalam takes an oath from enlightened citizens to be committed to their profession, to excel, to increase literacy, to plant trees and ensure their development, to make efforts to get rid of addiction and gambling in rural and urban areas, to show sympathy and responsibility towards the poor, to make India an economic power by describing value-based education and religion as spiritual power, to be free from community and linguistic discrimination, to be free from corruption, to live a life of honesty and transparency, to have sympathy, compassion towards handicapped persons and to feel happy on the achievements of the country and countrymen and to learn the foundation of building a new India.
- **Form of Developed India:** Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, who cherished the dream of making India a developed nation, continued to inspire the youth. He believed that we need to think and feel that the nation is bigger than any person or institution. He gave many meaningful suggestions for building a new nation. People will have to remove this idea from their minds that we cannot do this. He wanted to generate positive thinking in the youth by removing this type of negative thinking. Dr. Kalam considered it the responsibility of all countrymen to inculcate morality in various parts of the society. To make the entire society virtuous, morality is considered necessary in all places like family, education, service, career, business, industry, public administration, politics, government, law and order and judiciary. He used to emphasize the role of three important persons in freeing a country from corruption and making its people liberal – father, mother and teacher. These three can collectively work as a mission and make the country corruption free. Children should be taught the lesson of honesty from a young age. It has such a strong impact that they do not let even the elders deviate from their path of morality.

#### **The Usefulness of APJ Abdul Kalam's Philosophy of Life**

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a man of extraordinary talent. He will be remembered for centuries as a good human being, scientist, litterateur, poet, folk hero, patriot and President. With his simple conduct, he did many works for the benefit of humanity which gives him recognition as an ideal personality. Dr. Kalam's inspirational philosophy of life will prove to be helpful in transforming a developing country into a developed nation. The inclusion of science, religion and spirituality will play a meaningful role in awakening the self-confidence of the countrymen and making them valuable, civilized and enlightened citizens. We can use Dr. Kalam's ideology and his perspective to bring about changes in the modern education system. Some points of his philosophy of life have also been included in the new education policy. According to him, many problems are arising in the society due to lack of values. Today the youth is averse to his duty and is running away from his responsibility. Problems like loneliness, stress, depression are increasing day by day. The ill effects of which are being suffered by the society. To avoid these ill-effects, young children and youth should imbibe Kalam ji's philosophy of life.

#### **Conclusion**

Dr. Kalam's early life was spent in poverty but with his hard work, patience, simplicity and discipline, he reached the post of President of the country. This is an inspiration for us. If a person is determined, his background never comes in the way of his development. Determination surely leads him to success. Dr. Kalam learned from the religious scriptures of different religions like Quran, Vedas, Bhagwadgita, and Bible how to get success in difficult situations of life. This shows his respect for all religions. Dr. Kalam's philosophy of life gives us knowledge of his personality characteristics. He was punctual, determined, hard-working, simple, secular, humble, disciplined and a lover of nature. He was full of national sentiments and was also inclined towards spirituality and charity. He was a man of inspirational personality which inspires today's young generation.

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