

Remembering Missile Man, Abdul Kalam



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On July 27, 2024, we celebrated the 9th death anniversary of former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

Dr Kalam was a versatile, inspiring and guiding personality. He would always be shining as a full moon among the stars. He had no desire for worldly materials. He had entered Rashtrapati Bhavan with just one suitcase and left it with the same.

Born in a poor family as a boat-owner's son of Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, he with his stealy determination, life-long dedication, ro-

bust optimism and ceaseless industry, blossomed into India's most distinguished space-scientist and missile man of global renown. As a rocket-technocrat, he was deeply involved in the manufacture and launch of SLV 3, Rohini, Menaka, Aryabhata and Bhaskara, fulfilling the needs of Indian space-technology. To realise the country's defence needs, as a missile technologist, he strove hard to make the country self-sufficient and strong and under his efficient stewardship, the most powerful missiles like Agni, Prithvi, Nag, Akash and Trishul were devised, manufactured and launched quite successfully.

He was also a visionary, as he devoted his time to nurture young talent. He realised that the young generation is the backbone of the nation. He was also kind and compassionate. He strongly advocated an action

plan to develop India into a "knowledge superpower". His rich legacy will keep his memory alive. His books, particularly "Wings of Fire" and "Ignited Minds", will carry his thoughts and ideas to millions of people all over the world.

He has left a 'Livable Planet' behind him with exemplary devotion to science. Our country didn't have a scientist of such high eminence as Dr. Abdul Kalam as its President. Probably, it won't have in future too. He died delivering science lectures to students of IIM, Shillong in Meghalaya on July 27, 2015.

Life on earth is ephemeral. All those that are born must die one day. But Dr. Kalam's life and death teaches us unlike anyone else to cultivate scientific temper of mind and shun superstition. His science has no dogma; his religion has no superstition. He was truly



a citizen of the world.

Our country needs one more Abdul Kalam in every sphere who is a true human being, simple in his lifestyle. In his own way he started a revolution, giving ideas that revolution can be started without mass movements. He was a messiah of God indeed! He enjoyed being with people and the people adored him. He loved students and spent his final moments among them. His full name was Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam.