

The Creative Launcher

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Surge Ahead or Perish in Humiliation

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Abstract

The first scientist and bachelor of India became the 11th President of the largest democratic multi-cultural country whose full name contains 31 letters and five words –Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam. During his tenure he was popularly called People’s President. Everybody wishes to know his realm of achievements in the field of scientific world –space, defense and nuclear. He made significant contribution in the indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-III) which successfully injected the Rohini satellite in the near earth orbit in July 1980 and made India an exclusive member of Space Club, will it transform future of India? Mother India’s aspiration accomplished when a star twinkles in the temple town, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu on October 15, 1931. This is the glittering star that the world sees on the forehead of the Mother. She feels pride in wearing this star on her forehead. His deed has brought honour to his Mother. Dr. Kalam could do with his Mother’s blessings. He says that surge ahead as a developed nation or perish in perpetual perplexity of poverty, hunger and humiliation. His idea is all about breaking away from the forces that would prefer us to remain a nation of a billion people selling cheap labour and raw materials and providing a large market for goods and services of other nations. We have all the resources we need such as man power, talent, natural bounty or other assets. India is truly and naturally blessed with means to flourish. No reason is left to face poverty, hunger and humiliation. Sometimes it puzzles Dr. Kalam: “Who am I to write about this capacity of India to realize its destiny a

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developed nation?" A gifted son packed with inspirational spirit for the betterment of India, devoted scientist who has heightened the peak of the glory, missile man who has laid the foundation of the visionary roadmap to build India a developed country by 2020. He lives in every heart and soul of the budding minds who are to be an ingredient of the mighty and prosper India. O my dear Bharat Ratna! The entire nation salutes your indubitable integrity, sincerity, humility, magnanimity, and virtuosity. It is immaterial if you have acquired nothing, built nothing, and possessed nothing –no family, sons, and daughters. Look at India. It is, by far, yours. One billion people belong to your family. Young boys and girls are your sons and daughters. You have already attained fatherly figure.

Keywords- Prestige, Indianness, Popular, Indian Culture and Tradition

A versatile genius wants to utilize his precious mind in every walk of life that could lead the nation and its people towards prosperity, communal harmony and national integrity. Though, a man of scientific stuff has developed an urge of writing books and composing poems in his latest phase of life. Like other branches, books are also a tribute to man's creative talent, a manifestation of the human urge to build, to beautify, and to make aware of the inner and deeper truths of life. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam developed Prithvi (the Earth) – Surface-to-Surface Weapon, Agni (Fire) –long cherished dream of REX (Re-entry Experiment Launched Vehicle, Trishul (the trident of Lord Shiva) –the Tactical Core Vehicle, Nag (Cobra) –anti-tank missile and Akash (sky) –Surface-to-Air to defend country and lives of the citizens. These viable missile based defences has brought India into the select club of nations that call themselves superpowers. The emergence of India as a self reliant country in the field of guided missiles upset all the developed nations of the world. Are these superior to Scuds and Patriots. However, the latent fire in the heart of every Indian acquires wings, and the glory of this great light up the sky.

Like missiles, Dr. Kalam created his eternal books –from a scientific perspective, the inner being of Dr. Kalam can be seen as an amorphous collection of sublime thoughts, amazing images, sacred emotions, sensible sensations, dreams for the developed Mother India, fascinating insights and individual turns into billion inspiration: *Wings of Fire, 2020* –

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A Vision for the New Millennium, Envisioning an Empowered Nation, Ignited Minds, My Journey, Developments in Fluid Mechanics and Space Technology, The Luminous Sparks, The Life Tree, Missions India, Children Ask Kalam, Guiding Souls, Indomitable Spirit, and Inspiring Thoughts wherein he has placed his lucid mind and spiritual heart for the people to make their souls holy to find Almighty and Almighty declare that they are His creations. Man must maintain his position because he was the last creature to come into existence; he is, in fact, the focus and goal of creation and Dr. Kalam takes it as his duty to make them realize it.

Our former president and distinguished scientist has written a few remarkable books – these books have attained eternity. He projects a total comprehensive vision of the country, relating to the scientific notion of the expanding universe. It is, in fact, the sharpest, the subtlest, and the most sensitive reaction to the varying and variable human impressions and experiences. Nation consists of people. And with their effort a nation can accomplish all it could ever want. Motivating India's people, and its youth especially, is the core mantra of his idea of developed country. Dr. Kalam wants that the entire citizens play pivotal role in the development and prosperity of the country and each citizen has its equal share in development, prosperity, opportunity and wealth. Deprivation of the citizen is a scornful act of dragging India behind from the targeted achievements.

We know that a man survives when all organs of his body function well. A rose blossoms in the garden when soil, water, surrounding, its root, stem, leaves and sunlight are in proper conditions. So without further argument –students, youths, farmers, scientists, engineers, technicians, doctors, medical staff, industrialists, armed forces personnel, spiritual leaders, political leaders, administrators, artists, sports persons from all religions and castes get opportunity on merits as “A garland can be made only with many flowers with a common thread. And make countrymen love the nation and work for the unity of minds to realise the garland of India”. The essence of it that networking of thoughts and deeds of more than one billion people towards goal of a developed nation is indeed the need of the hour. This is a large force, which needs to be harnessed constructively towards singular mission of making India a developed country. He is used to stand on the shore watching the motion of the waves, something he used to do so as a child. Each wave to him represented an individual. A

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new insight emerged as to how each wave is distinct from others, and yet is not independent of other waves, or of the ocean itself.

Dr. Kalam has his own thoughts for building a developed India. Country need enlightened citizens, creative leadership, a society with knowledge, empowered women, incessant creativity and innovation without barriers, engagement in great scientific exercise with unflinching faith and determination, moral based spirituality, abiding values, presentation of art and literature in true spirit, the mission of education, and indomitable spirit in all these affairs. His vision to mission worked perfectly and now India could convert challenges into fruition at a time when developed world denied technology. Dr. Kalam has taught us to get rid of the inferiority complex and defeat the defeatist spirit that eclipses our potential to soar high. A man can be destroyed but not defeated.

What has India got from Indian politics and Indian religions? We must consciously meditate over it. Politics are to lead country while religions are to rectify evil deeds and to inculcate virtues. Politics make people ambitious, self-centered, introvert, tend to gain worldly pleasure and compel to do wrong for self vested interest. Religion teaches humanism, honesty, love, trust and protect from ill doings. But more or less both of them have lost its significance on Indian soil that is why he advises to follow “*Patriotism beyond politics and religion*”.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam gives enlightening message to the countrymen through his poetry. He is greatly influenced by the great poet Saint Thiruvalluvar, “Successful leaders can never be defeated by problems. They become master of the success and defeat the problems”. Dr. Kalam has his own thought for the creation of poems, “Poems are the result of peak happiness or sorrow. Common traits of both happiness and sorrow are tears. In one case, tears will be sweet. In another case, it will be salty. Human life is a combination of both”. In everyday life revolutions are taking place. Dr. Kalam whose heart beats for the country and being a keen observer cannot stay out of this turbulence. He faces new challenges –dynamics of the psyche, soul illuminates, intense purities and fevered ecstasies. Naturally it would have come to his mind that if a scientist propounds a theory of his own regarding invention or innovation, definitely, it requires “language” to define. A widely read and learned man, like Dr. Kalam will be well aware of what may be more influential than the theory of Aristotle

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“poetry is more philosophical than history” and the highest form of conveying thoughts and suggestions. The contents of poetry becomes universal, ignites mind, purgates soul, wings spread breaking barriers of walls and borders of the country and penetrates other continental mind and heart.

My Song– A tribute to Mother India is exceptionally fabulous in contents– acknowledgement of gratitude because Mother has nursed and grown him, he owes much to Mother, and she imparted a parting mission and eternal message. Ever reminding message of mission of life to her sons and daughters –remember three multidimensional golden advices. How stupendous in essence it is –be truthful, acquire knowledge and enrich the land. The fourth section consisting of six lines –a sestet of this poem is the assertion of his acclamation of truth, admiration of knowledge through which made the land prosperous that guarantee honour and glory to Mother India. The worthy son, Dr. Kalam, gives credit to Mother –he could do with the Mother’s blessings. He asserts that our deeds will bring honour to you.

Why does he talk about knowledge in his poem? Knowledge is power. Everybody knows it. Apart from it, knowledge is a source of peace, a fragrant flower that delights the mind, teaches humanism, makes a significant man, breeds prosperity, springs dignity, takes above the Everest, awakens, makes agile, infuses verve, adorns life, illumines the way, earns love, respect, name and fame, with knowledge a man becomes like the sun, spreads light, and conquers gloom.

First he has accomplished in the field of science and technology thereafter he offers his earnings of untiring enthusiastic efforts and perseverance in extraordinary achievement to Mother India –at this amazing performance more than one billion Indians sing songs of glory whereas the world particularly the developed nations are envious. He does not boast of his achievement instead he assures to remain true son of the Mother India:

We will always be children yours,

Wherever we are,

Whatever we do,

We will always be children yours!

O Mother, Mother India.

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Song of Youth is a call to the youth of country. Dr. Kalam wishes that the youth aspire to be equipped with technology and knowledge. At the same time they love nation. With your technology perform something astonishing and glittering. It must be towering and massive. In the view of Dr. Kalam, “*Small aim is a crime*”. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. As we know that India is a vast country –contains more than one billion people so a little development will not be able to uplift the status of India. It will not be able to eradicate illiteracy. Moreover, it will not be able to minimize pathetic poverty and hunger. Developmental graph shows miserable. We lag behind in many fronts –economical growth, health conditions, education, technology and scientific endeavour in comparison to the European, American and even to some Asian countries like China, Japan, Korea and Malaysia.

To work on a great vision with knowledge and technology will transform India into a dreamed developed nation –powered by economic strength with value system. It is a country of billion and through a vision we can inspire billion souls. A well known adage goes, “*thousand kilometers begin with one step*”. One sun can overcome darkness of the world. Youth needs power of the sun rays to penetrate into each and every cell. The ignited soul is a peerless resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth. Dr. Kalam believes that if we keep the spirit with knowledge definitely we will attain great vision –developed India – there is no doubt about in the birth of vibrant India. He prays to Almighty for the divine peace in the concluding triplet of the poem. If he prays –understand his pray –prayer before Almighty –how much truthful is his pray –what kind of thought is in his prayer? We must know it:

In pray the Almighty: “May the divine peace with
Beauty enter into our people; Happiness and good
Health blossom our bodies, minds and souls”.

Dr. Kalam’s prayer for peace with beauty, happiness and good health blossom in our bodies are comprehensible but good health in our minds and souls are to be explored by the people who have acquired knowledge, who have brought glory to Mother India and pledge to remain true son of the soil. Certainly it reflects some venomous minds and putrefied souls have presence in our systems that must be uprooted for the congenial atmosphere for divine

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peace. Such an unhealthy minds and souls cause deterioration in sound environment of peace and beauty to the country –that haunts in the scientific mind. All calculations –addition, subtraction and multiplication create imbalances in maintaining peace. He fears that it will dampen the spirit; it will raise hindrances in creating peace with scenic beauty in Mother India. Song of Melody, optimistic song shows a bit slumber seal in the unceasing spirit. We should also pray to Almighty to accept the prayer of Dr. Kalam for nation's sake.

Soaring Dream is a poem in which readers and lovers of the country find optimism flavour of Dr. Kalam. This poem was written when he was witnessing Paris Air show in 1989. Fabulous Air show of Paris was in motion. At that time Kalam yearns for his nation that one day it will design the planes and pierce the sky as lightening in action. 15 years back, India had not developed Agni, and Prithvi. Nuclear test at Pokhran of 1998 was still a dream. Despite this fact Dr. Kalam who had sight with a vision, forecast *Yes we can!! Yes we can!!* But when will this dream come true? He lays principle and condition to achieve it. Conditions lie in the following lines:

When we are united in action and addicted deeds

Sky can't be a limit for National actions!

Emphatic statement twice repeated yes we can coupled with double signs of exclamation at the same place shows his passion and emotion that he possesses for his country and the belief that he has in potential and capabilities, it needs united action to yield desired result. *Tumult* gives a new dimension to look into Dr. Kalam's vision and belief, dedication and performance, research in the laboratory and effect of development outside, happiness of achievement and harm thereby achieved of goals in the scientific world, fruit of efforts in enhancing weapons and untold miseries and destruction that cause and effect it yield on human beings. Dr. Kalam questions himself:

My inner self asking me accounts of these years

Putting Rohini in space orbit

Testing Agni, Prithvi & Akash

Flying Trishul and Nag

Is this happiness?

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Who will reply to this question – historians, scientists or myself? His talent tends to explore space to enhance science but his soul reminds and strikes to his mind that he is providing weapon of destruction. His heart revolts against mind and merits. Declares, it murders the passion of soul. Dr. Kalam accedes that life is enormity of problems, frustration, grief, sadness, loneliness, guilt, fear and anxiety. Despite this un-denying fact – life creates courage, wisdom, challenge, nurtures champions and creates heroes. He has been found throughout his life in vigorous verve, peerless passion, unflinching faith and unquenched thirst of soaring high and high, and unfulfilled desire to make his country stand amongst the creators of knowledge. He took this challenge like eternally unbroken promise of sunrise. Poesie *God* by the versifier Dr. Kalam sends messages to the followers of *Khuda* and *Bhagwan*, dramatic in tone, ironical in contents, didactic in manner, fully controlled and forceful thought seem an effort to make them feel guilty:

Ten thousand Hindus died
Ten thousand Muslims were dead
All of them were told; you are dying
For Khuda and Bhagwan
.....
Bodies were lying over their hopes
Souls were liberated, searching for God

These twenty thousand souls were searching for God. But these souls could not trace God in darkness of their sins spread all over the space. The glimpse of God was nowhere available. Suddenly a light came nearer. Souls of Hindus and Muslims claimed it is Khuda; it is my Bhagwan. In utter dismay these souls hear the voice of light, “*I am not yours*”. The light thunders:

You have killed my delight
I sent you to spread love
You spread hatred instead
Now you know Khuda and Bhagwan
Now you know Ram and Rahim
Both are one creator of you all?

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Most part of the lives of Dr. Kalam has been engaged in laboratory for research and development. Nevertheless he has been quite aware of heart-rending happenings in India – poverty, hunger, hatred, riots and killings. He knows consequences of the riots and that have shaken the foundation of Indian heritage of love and harmony that is known for centuries. Why are men killing men with cruelty? - is a ballistic missile – Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, Akash; for those who play the pivotal roles in riots. Now nation has identified them and the real peace loving citizens recognise them:

Riots have broken the cage of peace

Riots have broken the home of faith.

Dr. Kalam defines God. Who is God? What is God? Why has He created human beings? Purpose and meaning of creation of mankind is– “*To spread the message of love*”. Dr. Kalam questions those people who claim parts of India as their own as to what they have contributed to India for its survival and in its development peep into these lines:

Yet what do you give to one another and world

Banyan’s question gets echoes in my soul.

By taking buttress of *Banyan*, Dr. Kalam touches the soul and gives a severe jolt to conscience to the sons of soil. To drive the point home he describes his days of the *Rashtrapati Bhavan*. As we know April is the cruelest month and it happens that simmering summer scorching the streets, mankind finds in despair, sulking world wipes the sweat and in such an enervating conditions importance of Banyan increases many fold. Lovely Banyan groove provides roof and wards off defeating sunrays. Its cool breeze a respite in heart, birds takes maximum delight in jumping in branches, koels hide themselves in the coolest corner, mynas teach flight techniques to kids, peacock rehearses at the brim of the shade. One banyan tree extends relief and comfort to so many animals, birds and mankind bearing all the heat. It echoes in the soul where it has conscience. Dr. Kalam asks a moral bearing question, “*What do you give to one another?*”

The rhymester Dr. Kalam expresses similar ideas in *Radiating Message From Sree Siddaganga Math* and *Blossomed to Give*. The tone is so mild and milky while he addresses people of the country, “*O my fellow citizens*”. None –colour, caste, creed, region, religion, language, class, dignity and pride of knowledge, power and fame but as simple as a mere

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human being –beneficiary of giver-in giving you receive happiness in body and soul. You have everything to give. If you have knowledge, share it. If you have resources, share it, with the needy. Use your mind and heart to remove the pain of the sufferers and cheer the sad hearts. He assures the believers since he believes in Almighty –*Almighty will bless all your actions* as Dr. Kalam opines in *Radiating Message From Sree Siddaganga Math*.

The contemporary bard and scientist, Dr. Kalam witnesses beauty of April bloomers that cheer the hearts and bring sweet smiles on the faces. The poet asks question the April Bloomers, “*O my friend April Bloomer, what is your mission?*” the children of spring narrate their nature, noble and exemplary deeds. They are born to give and give:

Give joy to the spirit,
Give smile to the faces,
Give happiness to the heart,
Give grace to the life.

Here mission of flowers is to give joy, spirit, smile, happiness, grace and life. Do our national leaders, local politicians, Acharya, Mahant, Sadhu, Saint, Seer, Babu of the days compare their words and actions to these flowers and trees? Do they possess qualities to be followed, revered and deserve due regards and praise? Now the turn of the flowers come to ask question our former Supreme Commander and it hurled a shaking and shocking question, “*What does the human life give to each other?*” On this mind boggling and blowing question the ignited mind of the elegantly and decorates scientist was puzzled by the tender fragrant flowers. Our former president is of the view that inspirational life of flowers of a few days may play decisive role for human beings if wish to do something dazzling and purposeful:

Your life for humanity is indeed inspiring,
For a mortal being, no joy is greater than giving.

His words are the pillars on which love, peace, development and prosperity rests. He wants to leave something behind for coming generations. He yearns that his earnings of life could be immortal. We have not experienced so far that a dog demolishes kennel of other dogs or breeds. We have not witnessed that the birds would have destroyed nests of other birds. Is this the time to watch activities of birds, animals, trees, and flowers by the supreme beings and correct ignoble deeds?

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We can also learn from air, water and star:

Civilized culture like the dust

Highly qualified may be rust

Just learn from the air, water and star

How they perform, how are we far?

A poet is invariably a keen observer of his surroundings, of his times, and deeds of men of his period. Deranged deeds from decade to decade, period to period, and in all walks of life would have provided inexhaustible inhuman activities and purposeless lives of the men of blood, bone, flesh, mind, heart and soul that left no option but to moralize citizens of Mother India in his ever inspiring lives of flowers to the devotees of gods and goddesses:

It fell down from the mother branch,

Humbly at the feet of the great tree.

With the parting message echoing as its fragrance,

It sung "I was born to give, even as I wither away,

I will be back next spring, to give, give again.

A symbolical expression deals with various types of human personalities with the changing traits. It provides, in part, a structure for Dr. Kalam's thought, for the ideas he had been assimilating from his observation and experience. Its creation gives him confidence and strength so that he writes out of all the fullness of his interests, finding in himself and his thought a sufficient subject for his versification. These poems show the re-blossoming of his poetry after irreparable blow to humanism, an indelible scar on Indian history, and demolishing attack on unique cultural heritage after the occurrences of '84 riots in Delhi, 2002 genocide in Gujarat, 2008 Kandhamal rape and riots –all of them against own citizens. In such poems Dr. Kalam is able to write with authority, to blend his appreciation of beauty with a sense of tragic elements of life to give significance to the inhuman purposeless life, and to attain in the process a nation's building means of achieving through his poetry. Plain speech and clarity but explode the forte of assailants are the basis as the *Indian Literary Awakening*. True Indians believe that Dr. Kalam's attitude towards contribution for the welfare of human beings and belief in purposeful life brought great dividend to him when

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Republic Day, 1981 brought glory for the conferment of the Padma Bhushan award on him. On Republic Day of 1990 he honoured with the Padma Vibhushan award.

His Padma Bhushan award evoked mixed reactions. Some shared his happiness. There were others who had felt he was being unduly singled out for recognition. Some of his close associates turned envious. Kalam asks question in his autobiography *Wings of Fire*, Why do some people fail to see the great values of life because of sadly twisted thought processes? Happiness, satisfaction, and success in life depend on making the right choices, the winning choices.

Rock Walls is a human and friendly fellow feeling and zealous poem wherein the poet's poetry culminates without walls. Some of Indians build rock walls of hatred, disintegration, communalism, prejudice, cruelty, inhumanity, incivility, fear, caste, creed, religion, region, language and place their gods and goddesses within the periphery of walls all their lives. And such deeds may be to fulfill hunger, enclose orchard, and to make home to live in. Dr. Kalam has some different mission of his life. He demolishes such walls. He wants to live without wall as it has variety of advantages. He grows flowers on open spaces, floats lilies on ponds and rivers, plants trees so that birds have nests, morning breeze blows, sun is up, light is filtered through tree leaves, bird's flight gives him sense of freedom, pleasure scatters light of colour and flowers' fragrance gives him delight of creator. All these benefits and values of without walls cause him to ask an eye opener question, "Why do I build wall to confine them?" Dr. Kalam desires to see his country great and up. He dreams to see happiness and peace in his country, so he is without house:

I have no house, only open spaces

Filled with truth, kindness, desire and dreams.

The Real Leader and *The National Prayer* are the same in thought and design of presentation. Nowadays leaders of our country are engaged in violence, riot, bribe, extortion, scandal, scam, and all kinds of vices, sins and crimes. Dr. Kalam has been watching and observing from all corners of life -from Rameswaram to research laboratory to Rashtrapati Bhavan and now the Marg of New Delhi. It is also pertinent to mention that our country began to bleed just after attaining independence. Two important news items appeared on the front page of a Tamil newspaper on the 16th August 1947 –one item was India achieving

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freedom from the slavery of the British and Panditji's speech. The other news items and the most impressionistic one which has been embedded in his memory is about Mahatma Gandhiji, the real leader was removing the pain of riot:

The father of the nation, Mahatma, walking bare footed
In the streets of Bengal for peace and harmony
With the strength of blessed would of Mahatma
I pray the Almighty! When will be the dawn of second vision?

Dr. Kalam portrays Mahatma Gandhi as an ideal leader for a country because of his real concerns of the people of his country. His leadership qualities give an everlasting positivism of the genuine leadership qualities on the mind of Dr. Kalam at a time when he was a school boy. At a minor age he weighs deeds, words and its significance in the real life:

Walking barefoot in a town in Bengal,
Removing the pain of riot affected families
Mahatma Gandhi was an embodiment of nobility,
Elevated thinking and concern,
For human beings and he was there where there was pain.

Dr. Kalam has ample knowledge of Indian history and incidences. Mahatma Gandhi belonged to Gujarat when he was working as a messiah in 1947 but the leaders of Gujarat in 2002 –an M.P. (Ahsan Jafri) of the Lok Sabha (Indian Parliament) was giving calls to save him and for the people of the Gulbarg Society complex – gives calls to leaders, administrators and policemen. But other M.Ps, MLAs and leaders were sworn enemies to teach lessons of the citizens of their own country on the land of Mahatma Gandhi. They were burnt to death. Dr. Kalam had visited affected areas by the riots. At that time he was President of the largest democratic country. His soul stirs up, conscience of his pen challenges him, and his bruised thought compels him to write a poem that could heal up the wounds caused by the sons of the soils of Mother India. What his pious mother and religious father taught to speak the truth in all conditions –truth as high as where our thoughts can't fly, sweet as honey; as lofty as the seventh sky, definitely his parents in heaven would have felt proud of his son 'Kalam'.

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Where this poem ends, Dr. Kalam's another poem *Oh Almighty! Light The Lamp of Courage!* begins. He speaks what he sees, feels and experiences exactly it is because he prays to Almighty, "*bless us also with courage and smiles*".

Dr. Kalam says that He heard and delivered me:

Divine cure and light penetrating into me,

Cures my pain, body and soul.

Divine beauty and peace enters into me,

Blossoms happiness in my body and soul.

Oh! Almighty, light the lamp of courage and smile,

If God be for me, who can be against!!

Dr. Kalam reveals that his parents were just like a gardener who plants the seed likewise his parents taught him lessons of:

Transparent honesty, self discipline

Faith in goodness, sea deep kindness

Seed turned to flower has become fruit

My mind and body reap these thoughts

If Dr. Kalam was taught a lesson to be kind, honest and merciful at the same time he was taught to be bold, fearless, and ferocious. His bravery reflects in the following lines:

A bad seed was not allowed to grow

Weeds like this were collected and thrown

Who will sacrifice himself to weed out untruth?

Why not me? Why me? If not me who?

Who? Who? Who?

India has been an ideal country for peace loving people. But post independence era radically aggravated glorious heritage for which the country had been know for centuries. Milieu changed dangerously day by day that stamps the seal by the poem **Noble Nation**. Absolutely and obviously prevalent predicament destroys old great civilization and civility:

One of the nations with great civilization,

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India 2020 celebrates the birth of the noble nation.

Light of celebration from India reaching our galaxy

Nation with clean environment without pollution,

Having prosperity without poverty,

Peace without fear of war

A happiest place to live.

It seems that he has composed this poem entitled *Gratitude* keeping in his mind that poetry begins in delight and ends in wisdom:

A forest was growing

Trees loaded with fruit

Like little children clinging to the mother

Bushes with wild flowers

Bees, butterflies humming their song.

Suddenly like clouds rumble and thunder

Disease to panthers struck like a fierce lightning

Death took its toll not asking big or small

When ten were left they remembered the Lord.

Dr. Kalam's heart beats for the country and its people. The fact reflects from the poem *Where Are We*. Quite obvious on the horizon that our country is struggling hard to improve its economy. The growth rate seems alarmingly unsound. The very first line of the poem begins with '*Where are we now, dear friends*', he asks this question from our parliamentarians whose chief responsibility is immense. He says that '*They are sculptors of Mother India*'. Their accountability rests to lead us towards light and enrich our lives. Their effort may redeem us and we all can prosper. It requires sublime thoughts, verve and actions. Such an idea comes to the mind when expectation meets an opposite end. Definitely nowadays the parliamentarians have forgotten their responsibilities and even they have failed to maintain decorum of it. It is pertinent to remind them of the exchequer to be incurred on the on going affairs of the parliament. That's why he shows annoyance and anger so he

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addresses “*Oh! Parliamentarians*”. “*Oh*” with signs of exclamation multiplies indignation and intense shock that his heart would have borne.

The former president of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam has been the Supreme Commander of the Indian forces. How keenly he has observed the effort, dedication, hardships and uphill tasks of the Indian soldiers. The title of the poem *My Dear Soldier* itself manifests his sympathy and affection he has for them. The contents of this poem move in this way - during his presidential tenure he sent his poetic message to the brave Indian soldiers through a group of children from National Educational society’s High School, Bhandhup (West), Maharashtra, who called on mission to ignite patriotism in the young Indian minds on their way to Wagah.

Remarkable, indeed, is the deed of our soldiers, Dr. Kalam calls them the great sons of the soil:

Oh defenders of borders

You are great sons of my land.

We can understand from the fact that they have to face ‘*Windy season*’, ‘*snowy days*’, ‘*scorching sun*’, ‘*sweltering rays*’, ‘*climbing the heights*’, ‘*striding the valley*’, ‘*defending the deserts*’, ‘*guarding the marshes*’, ‘*surveillance in seas*’, ‘*by securing the air*’ day in and day out. They bear untold miseries when we are all asleep. The Supreme Commander evaluates their endeavour and thus he draws conclusion “*Prime of your youth gives to the nation!!*”

Oh! Yes, when you set your feet on the land it produces echo and engulfs the nation. He prays for brave men and supplicates to Almighty who is the host of the heavens and the earth:

Wind chimes of my land vibrate your feet

We pray for you brave men!!

May the Lord bless you all!!

Most of the scientists do not believe in the word or existence of ‘*soul*’. While Missile Man, Dr. Kalam calls it ‘*mighty*’. ‘*Body*’ is ephemeral whereas ‘*soul*’ is eternal. ‘*Body*’ has temporal feature while ‘*soul*’ has the quality of permanence. What is body? Or what is soul? What is the difference between the two? He knows it well. The poem *Mighty Soul: Can It Be Imprisoned?* reflects his outlook and dogma of life. One can easily peep into the heart and

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mind of Dr. Kalam through his belief and practice. He says that body can be put behind the bar but the mind cannot be imprisoned. Though such predicament brings deeper insights and interned inmates see newer outlooks. He describes this scene when he visited Rubben Island, South Africa. He shows the fate of apartheid and their oppression. Where have they gone? So this line speaks volumes '*For mankind's mighty soul can never be chained!!*'

Dr. Kalam narrates the problem of communalism and social inequalities; he vividly recollects one incident at Rameswaran elementary school. He was in the fifth standard. A new teacher could not comprehend a Brahmin boy and a Muslim boy sitting together in accordance with the social ranking as perceived by the new teacher:

Suddenly one day a storm arrived
In the form of new teacher
Made us sit away from each other
Was it his pride or age-old style?

It was harrowing act what the teacher had done was a snake's work. Still he lives with the image imprinted on his subconscious mind of Ramaswamy crying in the class when he changed his seat to the rear row. He has rightly posed question in his poem *Harmony* who is to separate us here? Such a teacher who spreads hatred will certainly face *la derrota* '*educated serpents*'.

Harmony is about his soul-searching, back during school days when he was a revolutionary and breaker of the communal wall. This poem describes an event which occurred in his class.

My memory goes back five decades
A small school in Rameswaran town
Ramaswamy and I weaving words together
Harmony knows only delight or creator
Hindu or Muslim Mosque or temple
Our minds were free from these cradles.

Dr. Kalam vividly recollects one incident at school. He was in the fifth standard. A new teacher had come to teach his class. He invariably used to sit in the front row with his

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close friend Ramaswamy. The teacher could not quite digest a Brahmin boy and a Muslim boy sitting together and moved them apart.

Life Tree originally composed in Tamil, later it was translated into English and thereafter composed directly into English. He also seems nature lover like Wordsworth and Robert Frost. He sought to define human feelings through his poem. Thus he writes in *Life Tree*:

Oh. My human race,
How, we were born,
In the universe of near infinity,
Are we alive?
This is the millennium question of humanity,
And sought the help of our creator.

It is a symbolic poem. He symbolizes human to a tree. God created human beings with the purpose. Thus they must serve the purpose; means lead a purposeful life under the sun as long as body and soul is together. Dr. Kalam describes the systematic functioning of a tree in a coherent and scientific way. He says:

Astonished to see the nature's wonder
Bottom Layer's have shed the flower all around the sand
Whereas mid layer flower blossoms
In number of magnificence
Perfume radiatory, beauty all around
Honey bees filling the flower bed, mutual love flowing

Again it discerns that his poetry carries the divine echo through the beautiful perfume in the mission of human life that is blessing like *Life Tree*. He delineates mission of human life through tree:

Again the great divine echo...
Let's sing the song of creations.
Intoxicated with scene.
We looked at the top layer
Ring of the buds about to blossom

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Oh my creation this is mission of human life.

Function of a tree is to provide shade to those who are all around it, bees fill honey with the flower. Flowers blossom, radiate beauty and spread perfumes. When the end comes, flowers silently fell to the earth they belong. Oh my creation of human beings should also be the same attitude towards life. Love, live together, help each other, peace be there. His own realization of fundamental unity of the world and poetry, and the spiritual reality imminent, and it reveals the wide spread spirit. This spiritual understanding has its effect upon life.

The poem *Pursuit of Happiness* is similar to *Song of Innocence* of William Blake. The question that Dr. Kalam raises is poignant, catches attention and startles the mind at once as we believe in love and peace because of our gods, goddesses, saints and sages have taught and preached, why does mankind kill us?

The young one asked his mother
Why do we bloom?
Men come and destroy us
His children make play things of us
You say we are messengers of God
Then why does mankind kill us all?

Riots and pogroms haunts his mind. Certainly he would have seen from very close to those children whose relatives have become victims of cruelty. Blake in *A Little Black Boy* describes deprivation only in a single line But I am black, as if bereaved of light whereas Kalam tries to see through a child's eye Then why does mankind kill us all?

In fact weapons of various types of missiles developed by Dr. Kalam are essentially required to defend the sovereignty of the country. Pertinently mentioned here -there are physical diseases, mental diseases, diseases that affect thoughts and souls. Medicines are required to cure diseases. I think Dr. Kalam's words are the most suitable medicines of knowledge, peace and development to keep the health of Mother India sound and keep the diseases away. Do you have reasons to believe arms and ammunition cannot establish peace and may never be a source of Peace. Naturally, it has become a great demand of the contemporary world, I quote the following lines from my own poem:

Men landed on the moon

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Walked into space
Measured the depth of the seas
Scaled the heights of the peaks
Of his reach everything
Find cure of suffering.

His poetry possesses peerless significance as long as pain and pleasure, sorrow and suffering, merry-making and sigh, cruelty and enmity, humanity and fraternity, honesty and humility, demon and dragon, nectar and venom, hypocrite and pious, battle and rancor are alive in the universe. His words, lines, and verses are treasure-trove for the vibrancy and survival of human beings. It has brightness of the sun, twinkling of stars, fragrance of flowers, height of mountains, depth of the seas, and palpitation of the human hearts definitely, his voice displays innocence of lamb, and strength of tiger –indomitable spirit of all knowledge. His lofty thoughts touch the soul, caress the heart, stir the movement, and change the course of men who are Supreme Being on the earth. He dreams his vision through the soul of his poetry perpetuate peace for all who shuns devils and evils, hatred and violence in the divine garden of universal love. His thoughts are roses and the books preserve them. It will continue on moulding minds of billion to lead lives as human being does. Let us see how relevant it is, “We know how to fly in the air like birds, we know how to swim in water like fishes, but we do not know how to live on earth”. It enshrines and immortalizes ideas and ideals which urge us “to live and to love.

Spontaneity is one of the most striking features of Dr. Kalam’s poetry. He is with the truth and without fear. He speaks of his mind as if Almighty pours water for the survival of his creatures. His thoughts take shape in the mind but come after taking perfect perfection from his heart. Intensity of feeling and a deep passion appears to be hallmark of his thoughts.

Even the smallest line of his *poema* touches the soul and the heart and has the capacity to change the properties of men who are the supreme beings on the earth. He has cultivated habit of writing poems is something in common with the habit of prayer. In his poems he wishes blessings of love, peace, happiness, prosperity, harmony and what is good and useful to human beings. His poems are replete with such examples. He has emerged as a voice of the age, displaying a wondrous creativity. He communicates at different levels of

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consciousness. One finds the echoes of the prevalent and dominant evils in India. His diction is tender and soft, and he freely uses the natural and familiar element for enhancing the expressive qualities of his language. Familiar references impart Poetic Movement. His communication with the inner self as well as the outer physical environment has contributed an elegantly aesthetical dimension to contemporary poetry. I would like to say that Dr. Kalam's heart bleeds for the mother land so he asks Indians to inculcate passion of doing virtuous deeds. His idea yokes with the following lines to sort out problems lying before the country:

Hatred flames forthwith cease
Raise slogan conscience crease
Open the sky for healing breeze

Seal the culture of the lust
Infuse the zeal of the trust
Save comely world from the worst

Vice, malice, fear and fury
Forget, forgive and bury

Is a great measure for major worry. (Cease Hatred Forthwith by Shujaat Hussain)

His ardent thoughts blossom in mesmerizing, grandeur and lustrous messages -let there be peace, there will be happiness and prosperity. India will be a developed, envisioning and empowered country. His poems are closely written, and its mixture of close revelation and wide intellectual generalization makes artistic. Definitely people of India in general and readers in particular will take it as cosmic voice which will enable their thoughts and deeds in rectifying to work collectively with one dream, dedication and passion to make India a developed country where all religions, religious places, sacred books and all its followers live as an Indian heritage. Unequivocally, it is en-tente that the readers can elevate themselves by this gifted wealth.

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