

# Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is in Role of a Teacher

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**Abstract: Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, An Unforgettable Teacher, gives his whole life for the students, they teach every student like a teacher rather than president of India. He is role model of many students.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen [A. P. J. Abdul Kalam] was a scientist and engineer, who served as the President of India from 2002 to 2007. Already a highly accomplished and much respected individual when elected to be the president, Kalam had spent four decades as a scientist and science administrator at several prestigious organizations like the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Born into a family of humble means in Tamil Nadu, Kalam went on to study aerospace engineering in Madras Institute of Technology. His initial dream was to become a fighter pilot but he failed to qualify for the Indian Air Force. He then started working at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as a scientist and was later transferred to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Eventually he was appointed as the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and in this position he played a key role in the Pokharan II nuclear tests. He became the President of India in 2002 and was known as the People's President. He left the office after serving one term and became professor of Aerospace Engineering at Anna University and a visiting professor at several other institutions.

Kalam was elected as the 11th President of India in 2002 with the support of both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the then-opposition Indian National Congress. Widely referred to as the "People's President, he returned to his civilian life of education, writing and public service after a single term. He was a recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

## II. CHILDHOOD & EARLY LIFE

Abdul Kalam was born as the youngest of five children of a Muslim boat owner named Jainulabudeen and his wife Ashiamma, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. His ancestors had once been wealthy traders though his family lost much of its fortunes by the early 20th century. Kalam grew up in humble surroundings and had to take up a job 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. He was a bright young boy, blessed with a thirst for knowledge and was always eager to learn new things. He completed his schooling from Ramanathapuram Schwartz Matriculation School and proceeded to study physics at the Saint Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, from where he graduated in 1954. Then he studied aerospace engineering in Madras Institute of Technology, graduating in 1960. His childhood ambition was to become a fighter pilot but he narrowly missed achieving his dream.

## III. ROLE AS A TEACHER

Kalam became a visiting professor at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, and the Indian Institute of Management Indore; an 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; and an adjunct at many other academic and research institutions across India. He taught information technology at the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, and technology at Banaras Hindu University and Anna University.

In May 2012, Kalam launched a programme for the youth of India called the What Can I Give Movement, with a central theme of defeating corruption.

In 2011, Kalam was criticised by civil groups over his stand on the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant; he supported the establishment of the nuclear power plant and was accused of not speaking with the local people. The protesters were hostile to his visit as they perceived to him to be a pro-nuclear scientist and were unimpressed by the assurances provided by him regarding the safety features of the plant.

He was a strong supporter of the use of technology for educational purposes, and even set up a mini studio to interact with students through EDUSAT, a satellite dedicated to meet the needs of distance learners.

Dr. Kalam believed that education had the potential to transform society and teachers play a key role in shaping the future of his country. He was passionate about teaching, and it is well-known that he served as the chancellor of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology and a visiting professor at various prestigious institutions of higher learning.

A student during his school life upto 10+2 spends 25,000 hours in the school campus. His life is, more influenced by the teachers and the school environment. Therefore, the school must have the best of teachers with ability to, teach and love teaching and build moral qualities. Teachers should become role models. Similarly, the student must be alert to build himself with best of qualities and to get ignited with a vision for his or her future life. He shared his views on Teachers Day.

The three teachers in my life; what did they give me? In an integrated way it can be said, that any enlightened human being can be created by three unique characteristics. One is moral value system. That I got from my father the hard way. Secondly, the teacher becoming a role model. Not only does the student learn, but the teacher shapes his life with great dreams and aims. Finally, the education and learning process has to culminate in the creation of professional capability leading to confidence and will power to make a design, to make a product, to make a system, bravely combating many problems. What a fortune and blessing I had from my three teachers.

#### IV. 7 INSPIRING QUOTES OF THIS GREAT MAN.

- A teacher should have a creative mind.
- The bird is powered by its own life and by its motivation.
- All of us do not have equal talent. But, all of us have equal opportunity to develop our talents.
- One of the very important characteristics of a student is to question. Let the students ask questions.
- Without your involvement you can't succeed. With your involvement you can't fail.
- God, our Creator, has stored within our minds and personalities, great potential strength and ability. Prayer helps us tap and develop these powers.
- Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident.
- I salute this towering personality, who was a teacher at heart. May his soul rest in peace.

#### Timeline

- 1931: Born in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, India
- 1954: Graduated from the Saint Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli
- 1960: Joined the Aeronautical Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- 1969: Transferred to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- 1970s: Directed Project Devil and Project Valiant
- 1982-1983: Became the chief executive of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)
- 1990: Awarded the Padma Vibhushan
- 1992: Appointed the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of the Defence Research and Development Organisation
- 1997: Awarded the Bharat Ratna
- 2002: Became the 11th President of India
- 2007: Stepped down from the presidency of India
- 2012: Launched a programme for the youth of India called the What Can I Give Movement
- 2015: Died of a cardiac arrest on 27 July.

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