

A Mantra for Free Partnership Dr. Kalam's Unique Innovative Idea

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Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was a fascinating and multi-faceted personality. His eminence was not confined to the journey of an obscure village boy from Rameshwaram to Rashtrapati Bhavan. From his childhood he was intensely humane and spiritual. Throughout his life he chased dreams and success chased him. Acclaimed as, India's Missile Man, Dr. Kalam wanted to catapult the nation to the status of a developed country by 2020.

Whosoever came in contact with Dr. Kalam, was greatly impressed with his simplicity, sincerity of purpose, dedication, devotion, determination, knowledge, memory, kindness, approachability. Many people of the country have not only achieved success in their work but also received accolades and laurels by following the path shown by Dr. Kalam.

Even after assuming the office of the *President of India*, Dr. Kalam was not lacking in his simplicity and humility. He was always keen to visit educational institutions and religious places. He never hesitated to accept the best ideas and beliefs of any religion without any discrimination and hesitation. Once when he went to an Ashram in Gujarat, a Sannyasi (Saint) asked Dr. Kalam, "How do you manage to remain so energetic and enthusiastic all the time?" He replied in a very simple manner that I always think what can I give to country and the society? When I meet a child, what can I give him so that he can be happy? Similarly, when I meet saints, I always think what can I give them? This sort of my thinking keeps me energetic and enthusiastic every moment. Dr. Kalam further told Swami Ji that the world teaches us what can we give to others, which will help them to move forward? In reply, Swami Ji told that Ahmedabad is such a city where we always talk about taking—taking from others and do not pay attention to the point of giving it to others. Dr. Kalam said that we have to develop a fully positive thinking in society. In this way, we can bring some changes in our thinking and mind set. Therefore, there is a great need for positive thinking and ideas which can bring changes in attitude of our society.

When Dr. Kalam was leaving the Ashram, about 40 media people surrounded him and urged him to interact with them. Dr. Kalam, as a teacher, asked them to keep aside their cameras, pens and pads. All the media persons followed his suggestion and advice. After that Dr. Kalam said that I offer you "Free Partnership" and asked them to accept it. Almost all media persons very anxiously enquired what this "Free

Partnership" offered by him was? In reply, Dr. Kalam said that you become a partner in the progress and advancement of the country without any stake. Further, he advised then to become a partner in the progress of their wife and their family members and their wife should not be any competition amongst themselves. Similarly, you become a participant in the progress and upliftment of your child as well as in the progress of your seniors and juniors of your office. Please play a positive role. Such role can be played and followed by only the person whose thinking is fully positive. Some media persons asked Dr. Kalam to smile. He said you should make the country smile through your positive and constructive works and deeds.

There are lot of hidden messages in Dr. Kalam's advice. "The country will smile", only when every citizen of this country fulfils/performs his duties with sincerity, full devotion and dedication. In the present prevailing circumstances of the society, every big/small judge will have to do justice in a consistent manner without any discrimination, greed etc. Likewise, the politicians and statesmen will also have to abstain from personal selfishness and act positively for the development of the society and country. Apart from this, another very important section of society i.e. the teacher fraternity has to make the students highly knowledgeable without any discrimination and greed etc. Similarly, physicians/doctors will also have to play a significant role in making the nation healthy by avoiding monstrousness. There is a need to make the country bureaucracy completely clean and free from greed and corruption. Industrialists have a very important role to play in the economic and social progress of the country. They have to set up high standards of integrity and honesty. To make the country smile the scientists and technologists will have to play a important and constructive role in developing new discoveries, products, equipments, processes, systems etc. The neglected section of society such as farmers, labourers have to work with dedication and devotion which will bring change in their attitude and thinking resulting into improvement in their standard of living.

In other words, as Mahatma Gandhi gave a slogan "Do or Die" for the freedom of the country, in the same way Dr. Kalam gave a "Mantra" of "Free Partnership" to make India a great and developed nation. This will certainly pave the way of the country towards progress and prosperity.