

Kalam and Lincoln – The Motivating Legends

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Abstract

This article narrates the biography of great leaders APJ. Abdul Kalam and Abraham Lincoln. It includes the profile about their family background, positions held, books published, achievements and last days of life. The purpose of choosing these particular two leaders lies in the uniformity of their family background and achievements. Both the leaders occupied the President position of great democratic countries. The lesson from their life is how a zero can become a hero. Let's discuss this in detail.

Keywords: Legend, Renaissance, Emancipation, Missile Man.

Introduction

This article aims to study two prevalent legends of America and India. Both of them occupied the top position in their country. We can find more similarities between the two. The differences are also there President Abraham Lincoln from America and President APJ. Abdul Kalam from India is now in our focus.

Abraham Lincoln came from an impoverished family. He couldn't even complete his studies without family support. With hard work and an image of good deeds, he reached the topmost presidential position in the United States of America.

APJ. Abdul Kalam also belongs to an economically low-income family. He struggled a lot to complete his studies. With sincerity and an image of dedication, he reached the topmost presidential position in India.

Profile of Kalam – The Legend

Name: APJ Abdul Kalam

Date of Birth: 15 October 1931

Place of Birth: Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, India

Nationality: Indian

Education: Degree in Aeronautical Engineering

Date of passing away: 27 July, 2015

Positions Held

- Senior Scientific Assistant, Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO), in 1958.
- Project Director of SLV –III, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), in 1969.
- Director, DRDO, in 1982.
- Senior Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister, India, in 1992.
- President, India, from 2002 to 2007.

Books Published

- India 2020 – (1998)
- Wings of Fire – (1999)
- Ignited Minds – (2002)
- Envisioning an Empowered Nation – (2003)
- The Luminous Sparks – (2004)
- Guiding Souls – (2005)
- Mission India: A Vision for India – (2005)
- Indomitable Spirit – (2006)
- Inspiring Thoughts – (2007)
- You Are Born to Blossom – (2008)
- The Family and the Nation – (2008)
- The Scientific India – (2010)
- Songs of Life (Poems), (2010)
- Failure to Success – (2011)
- Target 3 Billion – (2011)
- Turning Point – (2012)
- You Are Unique – (2012)
- Spirit of India – (2013)
- Thoughts for Change – (2013)
- My Journey – (2013)
- Forge Your Future – (2014)
- A Manifesto for Change – (2014)

- Governance for Growth in India – (2014)
- Beyond 2020 – (2014)
- The Righteous Life – (2014)
- Transcendence – (2015)
- Reignited – (2015)
- Advantage India – (2015)
- My India – Ideas for the Future – (2015)
- My Life – (2015)
- The Guiding Light – (2015)
- Learning How to Fly – (2016)
- Enlightened Minds – (2017)
- India's Biological Wealth – (2018)
- Pathways to Greatness – (2018)

Awards Received

- Padma Bhushan, Government of India, 1981
- Padma Vibhushan, Government of India, 1990
- Bharat Ratna, Government of India, 1997
- Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration, Government of India, 1997
- Veer Savarkar Award, Government of India, 1998
- Ramanujam Price, SASTRA, India, 2000
- King Charles II Medal, Royal Society, UK, 2007
- Hoover Medal, ASME Foundation, USA, 2008
- VON Karman Wings Award, California Institute of Technology, USA, 2009
- VON Braun Award, National Space Society, 2013

Recognition

- Recipient of Honorary Doctorates from 40 Universities
- The 79th Birthday of Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam was recognised as World Student's Day by the United Nations
- Nominated for the MTV Youth Icon of the Year in 2003 and 2006
- The Tamil Nadu State Government announced Dr APJ. Abdul Kalam's birthday, 15 October, is "Youth Renaissance Day."

- Tamil Nadu State Government Instituted Dr APJ. Abdul Kalam Award with cash ₹500,000 and a Gold Medal, to be awarded annually.
- The Prime Minister released postage stamps commemorating Kalam at DRDO, New Delhi.
- A new bacterium named Solibacillus Kalami to honour Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Abdul Kalam was a straightforward person with a simple lifestyle. He owned a few possessions, including a veena and a collection of books. Kalam was a kind-hearted man, a vegetarian, and liked simple food. He never married but voluntarily helped his relatives in his whole life.

Abdul Kalam would perform namaaz every day but also read Bhagwat Gita. He lived the life of a Muslim but respected all other religions. He believed that humanism is the most significant quality of a human being.

Profile of Lincoln – The Legend

Name: Abraham Lincoln

Date of Birth: 12 February, 1809

Place of Birth: Kentucky, America.

Nationality: American

Education: Passed Bar Examination

Family: Wife Mary Todd and Four sons.

Date of Death: 15 April 1865. (John Wilkes Booth in Washington DC has assassinated him)

Positions Held by Lincoln

- The legislature, Illinois, from 1834 to 1842.
- Member of Congress from 1847 to 1849.
- Attorney in 1849.
- Leader, Republican Party, 1854.
- President, United States of America, from 1860 to 1865.

Books Published about Lincoln

- Lincoln's speeches and writing (1989)
- Great speeches (1991)
- Poems of Abraham Lincoln (1991)
- Wisdom and Wit (1992)

- His story in his own words (1994)
- Lincoln's Devotional (1995)
- The Essential Lincoln (1996)
- Emancipation Proclamation (1998)
- Lincoln on Lincoln (1999)
- The life and writings of Abraham Lincoln (2000)
- Abraham Lincoln writer (2000)
- The Lincoln – Douglas Debates (2004)
- Quotations by Abraham Lincoln (2004)
- The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln (2005)
- Abraham Lincoln: his speeches and writings (2008)
- Selected Speeches and Writings (2009)
- The Portable Abraham Lincoln (2009)
- Selected Writings of Abraham Lincoln (2009)
- Quotes, Quips, and Speeches (2009)
- Lincoln on Democracy (2009)
- The Gettysburg Address (2010)
- Abraham Lincoln, Slavery and the Civil War (2010)
- Leadership Lessons of Abraham Lincoln (2011)
- Gettysburg Address and Other Writings (2013)
- Abraham Lincoln Boxed Set (2014)
- Abraham Lincoln Quotes (2016)

America split into northern and southern regions during Abraham Lincoln's presidency. The northern states remained with the United States. However, the southern states had withdrawn from the Union and declared themselves the Confederate States of America. Lincoln was correct in supporting the Union, which opposed slavery. He did not support the Confederacy and the people accepting slavery.

Civil War broke out, and an incredibly violent and bloody war took place between the two regions of America. Lincoln ultimately led America to defeat the Confederacy. In his famous Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln enacted measures to abolish slavery.

After the war, Lincoln felt it was crucial to reunite the Union and Confederacy back into one United States of America. He successfully achieved the goal of reuniting the United States. It is the most significant lifetime accomplishment of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln was instrumental in making the basement for the United States of America. As the 16th President of the USA, his contributions made the USA reach the world's economic superpower.

Conclusion

Dr APJ. Abdul Kalam was a person with very high-end qualities. The Missile Man Kalam is always interested in talking and advising students. He made students dream more. He made the students understand that dreams become possible with hard work. Dr. Kalam was a very polite and humble man who never chased money. While vacating the Rashtrapathi Bhavan as President of India, he left only his old suitcase, some dresses and books. Dr. Kalam handed over all the gifts received as the President of India to the Union government. He is such an unselfish personality.

Abraham Lincoln, also the 16th President of the USA, took huge risks and strains. First, he preserved the Union during the American Civil War. He passed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and freed the enslaved people. At a young age, Abdul Kalam distributed newspapers daily as a service boy on a bicycle to many houses to earn wages in Rameshwaram due to poverty. Abraham Lincoln also worked in a shop and even did the woodcutter job. With their hard work, they achieved the top position of their Nation. We salute the legends. In academic and professional excellence, we must remember that Lincoln's death year was 150 years before Kalam.

The last comment, as my perception, Dr. Abdul Kalam got the President's post on pure luck. He had not aimed and worked as a politician for the President's post. But Lincoln was one step ahead of Kalam. Abraham Lincoln worked in politics sincerely for the post of President. He achieved his ambition with dedication. We all should have such a determination in our lives. Aim and Shoot.

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