



India's First Corporate ezine

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**Telephonic Address by
Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India**

Tele-conference from New Delhi to Chennai



First of all I would like to greet Prime Point Srinivasan and his team for their excellent contribution in bringing together people. Above all honouring the good minds, serving minds. Particularly I would like to congratulate Prime Point Srinivasan for organizing the launch of Golden Jubilee (50th Edition) ezine with the theme of Un-sung heroes.

Today I am going to share with you few experiences which come to mind. It may or it may not fall strictly under the definition of un-sung heroes. The first experience deals with "be the captain of the problem, defeat the problem and succeed. The second experience relates to, how we do not realize, we have our own role models to follow in life rather than searching for role models elsewhere. The third one is my experience in reading a unique book Tiya by Samarpan.

Defeat the problems and succeed: Vidwan Krishna Murthy

On the evening of February 24, 2007, at Coimbatore, I had a very beautiful experience. As I got ready for meeting the first person out of twenty

appointments, a wheel chair was in sight with a smiling person probably in his late fifties. Unfortunately he has no hands and legs. His radiant face was revealing his happy state of mind. He introduced himself as Vidwan Coimbatore SR Krishna Murthy. I greeted him and asked him how this had happened. He smilingly said that it was from by birth. He thanked God, his parents, teachers and many others for giving him confidence, training and help. I asked him, what I could do for him? He said I don't need anything from you. I would like to sing in front of you. I readily agreed. He sang melodiously the Saint Thyagraja's pancha ratna kriti entharo mahanubavulu in Sriragam giving me a glimpse of his talent. I was quite touched. What is the message? Despite being physically challenged, the latent talent of music could blossom in this person with his positive attitude and perseverance, encouraged by the parents, teachers, academics and rasikas. Now he wants to give, give and give his art to inspire others. Of course, by his merit of music, in July 2007, he performed in the Rashtrapati Bhavan art theatre.

My role model is my Grandmother

I am taking a course in the Gatton College of Business and Economics here in Kentucky. Let me share an incident which happened a couple of days back. I had asked my students to "highlight the most inspiring person whom they have come across in their life?" One of the students, Stephanie, gave a beautiful answer to this question. She said that, the most inspiring person in her life was her grandmother, Esther. She told me that her grandmother was threatened by her boss - not to vote for a particular presidential candidate, otherwise he would fire her. But Esther decided to stand up boldly for her beliefs and principles and told her boss in front of everyone that she would freely vote for the candidate of her choice and she was not intimidated by his threat. Indeed, as history would have it, Esther voted as per her choice, that particular Presidential candidate won the elections, and of course, Esther was never fired. Friends, this is a unique example of the courage of one woman to fight for her democratic right even if it meant defying her own boss. It also shows, that how great examples of leadership and courage exist within our families and friends and how sometimes we may not observe them. I am happy that Stephanie was able to draw such inspiration from her grandmother.

Tiya : A Parrot's Journey Home by Samarpan is indeed a great creation. I used to get a number of books from people whom I meet and I give my own books. Also, I buy books whenever I get an opportunity, from book shops or at Book Fairs. Many good books adorn my personal library and some books are close to me. But, Tiya is one such book which influenced and inspired me a lot, because of its theme – "You need to know that You are different, you need to realize that you are much more than what you think, you are and

you need to actualize this through your action by achieving more than you think you can."

The journey of life is indeed an experience. The mind enriched with knowledge always learns from life's every phase of teaching. The parrot's experience evolves a philosophy of life. "Experience gives knowledge, and knowledge is strength. Strength is peace, and I was at peace. While climbing a peak, you go up and also down. The essential thing is to keep moving – climbing up and down is irrelevant in the journey of life". Another message from this book "Tiya" which can be spread is : "reaction causes involvement, which in turn makes you smile and cry, which in turn makes you react further, and entangles you more in the affairs. Stay indifferent, involvement kills, indifference frees."

My best wishes to all the member of Prime Point Srinivasan's and his team on the occasion of Golden Jubilee (50th Edition) of ezine.

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