

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Tiya - A Parrot's Journey Home**

A P J Abdul Kalam

**Samarpan (2009). Tiya - A Parrot's Journey Home (New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers), pp.174, Rs. 150, ISBN 978-81-7223-832-2 (Spirituality)**

"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. Also, I buy books- whenever I get an opportunity, from bookshops 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 - 'conscience'. Conscience is indeed a part of everyone of us and this message is beautifully painted and well presented by Monk Samarpan. The good conscience of the parrot succeeded to completely change Tiya's way of life. Fly, fly, fly and visit the strange world in the planet Earth and acquire knowledge.

'Anger is not a sign of intelligence'. Not only the parrot understands it, but every reader gets a message. One of the very important message that inspired me is: '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 actions, by achieving more than you think you can'.

How can we shape our conscience? I asked myself. Conscience can lead to good path and also to different paths. When the parrot gets the beautiful message, it is unique. 'There are better things to do in life than to shed tears for stupid reasons. Get out of this place. Fast. What a beautiful message from a good conscience Hans, and I completely agree with the

author when he says through Hans - 'in fact, anyone could achieve much more than they thought was possible. I was indeed inspired by a statement through Tiya, 'I feel that probably we are programmed to live in the present, and this is why we tend to forget the past, or think of what might happen in the future. This doctrine of the Monk is my most favourite statement to my young friends below eighteen years. Iceberg birds give a beautiful message to have courage - 'Dangerous - what danger can there be? Fear is the noose of the weak, courage is the ornament of the strong.

The journey of life is indeed an experience. The mind enriched with knowledge always (earns 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 are 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.

Finally, Tiya understands its conscience. 'I didn't know who he was, but I felt that without him I had no existence. By now I also knew that he would always be there with me in my life,

death, success, failure, sorrow and joy.' When the parrot decides to reach the land of eternity and disappear, the song of the book 'Tiya' is beautiful with the message - I alone was responsible for the bitter and sweet experiences of my life - the joys and miseries, smiles and tears, pleasure and pain. They were all like the waves of the mighty ocean - unable to touch the depths.'

"Tiya : A Parrot's Journey Home" by Samarpan, cheered my heart, enriched my mind in thinking with conscience. Conscience is the light of the Soul that burns within the chambers of our psychological heart. It is as real as life is. It raises the voice in protest whenever anything is thought of or done contrary to the righteousness. Conscience is a form of truth that has been transferred through our genetic stock in the form of the knowledge of our own acts and feelings as right or wrong. Conscience is

also a great ledger where our offences are booked and registered. It is an unbiased witness. It threatens, promises, rewards and punishes, keeping all under its control.

If conscience stings once, it is an admonition, if twice, it a condemnation. Cowardice asks, "Is it safe?" greed asks, "Is there any gain in it?" 'vanity asks, "Can I become great?" lust asks, "Is there pleasure in it?" But conscience asks, "Is it right?" The answer could be, to use one's conscience and be always righteous.

### Author's Profile

**A P J Abdul Kalam** is a notable scientist and engineer and served as the president of India from 2002 to 2007. He has been honored with many national and international awards including highest civilian awards in India like Padma Bhusan, Padma Vibhushan and Bharat Ratna.