

invention of Blues music (1903); and the first black President in the history of America, Barack Obama (2008) to numerous other significant developments that has come to define newer ways of reading the history of the nation.

Gitanjali Medhi*

ACHARYA MAHAPRAGYA & A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM.

The Family and the Nation.

New Delhi: Harper Collins Publishers, 2008,

pp: i-vii+i-ix+215, Rs. 250, ISBN: 978-81-7223-747-9

What makes a nation great? Is it macro economic growth, industrial growth, technological growth or a strong political system? We may put our arguments from different perspectives. But, ultimately one must return to the roots. It is people who form a nation, build a country or run a system. The next question is what kind of people can make a noble and developed nation in a true sense? Here comes the role of the smallest social group-the family. This fundamental but complex subject is discussed in the book *The Family and the Nation* by two prominent personalities, Acharya Mahapragya and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. Acharya Mahapragya is a Jain monk, Dr. A.P.J. Kalam is a visionary of contemporary India both belonging to different social backgrounds. While one had embarked the spiritual path at the tender age of ten, the other was a man of science and politics. However, their common understanding of a model Indian society, as well as, the nation, respect for some universal values that define the notion of 'Bharat' brought them together towards exchanging thoughts and ideas which are essential, spiritual and practical in nature. In the words of Dr. Kalam, "We thought over the question of how a noble nation could be formed and came to the conclusion that its seeds need to be sown in a family."

The book is divided into two parts with the titles 'The Evolution' and 'The Individual, The Family and The Nation' respectively. While the first part deals with the dynamics and evolutionary process of the Indian culture, it also delves on the idea of unity. The writings highlight the elements that led to the growth of

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Indian culture from the ancient to the present times. However, the question is how we can achieve unity as a nation. Both the writers through their articles and dialogues point out the interconnectedness of various aspects which can contribute in strong nation-building. We cannot evaluate the importance of values, education, culture, diversity, religious tolerance and mutual respect separately while talking about the overall welfare of the Indian nation.

The second part of the book mostly delves on the aspect of development. Articles selected for this section highlight the necessity and ways of both individual, as well as, social development. The utmost importance is laid on raising sensible and responsible children who in the future can become the greatest storehouse of human resource for the nation. Both the authors are deeply concerned about the degradation of moral and social values of the present society. They both agree that informal education that starts at home is the key to unlock the vast possibilities of human potential and creativity. Also, they reflect on the importance of balance in all areas of life. *The Family and the Nation* is a reminder of the rich cultural and spiritual history of India and can be referred to as a guide on holistic living particularly by the new-age Indians who are fortunate enough to live in an era of rising economic prosperity. It shows us ways to position India as a nation by upholding its time tested ethos and integrity.

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SHARIT K. BHOWMIK. Industry, Labour and Society.
New Delhi: Orient Blackswan Private Limited, 2012, pp: 211,
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Understanding work and labour is a herculean task for social scientists and researchers as it encompasses an enormous range of occupations and workplace conditions. There is variance in diverse parts of the globe even of the similar lines of occupations. Industrial sociology is often used interchangeably with Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management. It mainly focuses on ensuring commitment to work by the workers. Growing demand of psychology is seen in

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