

ii. Title : Ignited Minds  
Author : APJ Abdul Kalam  
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Classification : Non Fiction

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1. The dream and the message.
2. Give us a role model.
3. Visionary teachers and scientists.
4. Learning from saints and seers.
5. Patriotism beyond politics and religion.
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7. Getting the forces together.
8. Building a new state.
9. To my countrymen.
10. Epilogue.

Ignited Minds examines why, given all our skills, resources and talents, we, so obviously, capable of being the best, settle so often for the worst. What is it that we as a nation are missing? For at the heart of *Ignited Minds* is an irresistible premise: the people of a nation have the power, by dint of hard work, to realize their dream of a truly good life.

In *Ignited Minds*, Dr Kalam takes up different issues and themes that struck him on his pilgrimage around the country as he met thousands of schoolchildren, teachers, scientists, saints and seers in the course of two years. The book motivates us to get back on the winning track and unfold the energy within a nation that hasn't allowed itself full rein. *Ignited Minds* will fire minds of the young to whom it is primarily addressed. It is written in very simple prose: like a school textbook. Genius, it is said, is the ability to reduce the complex into the simple. The strength of *Ignited Minds* lies in the scientist's ability to present some of the most tangled issues that confront the nation in easily digestible packages of information. The book is in the form of a series of anecdotes, and is almost like a travelogue at times considering that Dr. Kalam has indeed seen most of India and has met people from all over the country. The Book is more about our country

growing as a whole and the children, who are the ones addressed as 'Ignited Minds', waking up to their destiny and responsibility.

In the book, Dr. Kalam refuses to offer predictions or pieces of advice. But with all the energy of a genius who is still not satisfied with what he has achieved, he literally exhorts the nation as a whole. To see such vision and such energy in a man of seventy-plus years is, one must say, very encouraging, considering the lethargy that rules most of our lives. And like the man himself says, instead of wondering whatever happened to our country, we should get up and start doing something about it. *Ignited Minds* is, technically speaking, an analysis of the reasons behind why mediocrity rules and is often the standard in a country of such immense potential, such huge resources and such a rich history.

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