

Strong Roots

Q. 1. How did Kalam's father respond to Kalam's query about prayer and spirituality?

Ans:
From the text 'Strong Roots' we come to know that Kalam's father would take Kalam for evening prayers. Kalam had curiosity about the meaning of prayer, but no idea about that. So, when he became old enough to ask questions, he wanted to know from his father the relevance of prayer. In reply, he first told that prayer has no mystery but has the power of making communion of the spirit between people. He also viewed that prayer makes one transcend one's body and thereby makes one a part of the cosmos knowing no discrimination.

Kalam's father opined, "..... every human being is a specific element within the whole of the manifest divine Being." In this respect, he added that no one should be afraid of any sort of difficulty for the same.

This is how Kalam's father responded to Kalam's ~~query~~ query about prayer and spirituality.

Q.2. What was Kalam's father's view about adversity?

Ans:

From the text 'Strong Roots' we come to know that Kalam's father was purely a spiritual person. He believed, "----- every human being is a specific element within the whole of the manifest divine Being." From this view, he came to believe that no one should be afraid of any sort of difficulty. He thought that everybody should try to understand the relevance of suffering when it comes. In fact, as viewed by him, "Adversity always presents opportunities for introspection." He also thought that, as a natural reaction, every human being seeks a helper whenever he or she comes in trouble. Though he stood by such people with prayers and offerings, he regarded that to be a wrong approach. He thought that everybody must comprehend the difference between the two visions — fear-bidden vision of destiny and the vision enabling us to seek the enemy of fulfilment within ourselves.

Strong Roots

Q.1. How did Kalam's father lead his life? How far was Kalam influenced by his father's life style?

Ans: From the text 'Strong Roots' we come to know about Kalam's father, Jainulabdeen. He was an austere person who would avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries and find the necessities only in terms of food, medicine and clothing. He was a spiritual person. Every evening he would go to mosque for prayers. He would freely exchange his spiritual views with the high priest of Rameswaram. He would start his day daily at 4 a.m. by reading the namaz. Then he would walk down to their coconut grove four miles away from home and return with about a dozen coconuts tied together and thrown over his shoulder. After that he would take his breakfast. He continued that routine in his age past sixty.

Kalam tried to follow his father in his own world of science and technology. From his father he came to believe that a divine power lifts one from distresses and guides one to right place. Further he came to believe that one proceeds to freedom and happiness by severing his emotional and physical bond.

Q.2. "This is not a correct approach at all and should never be followed."

— What is not a correct approach? Why does the speaker think it incorrect? What does he suggest in this connection? 3+2+1

Ans: In the text 'Strong Roots' we find Kalam's father's explanation on why people would come to him for help. In loneliness or in trouble, as a natural reaction, people look for someone to help them or to show them the way out. Every recurrent anguish, longing, desire finds its own special helper. Kalam's father would go between in the effort of such people to propitiate demonic forces. Still he thought that tendency of people an incorrect approach.

He thought that one should know the relevance of the suffering having no fear in that. In fact, adversity presents opportunities for introspection. So, in his view, the approach asserted is incorrect.

He suggests that one should understand the difference between a far-distant vision of destiny and the vision that enables us to seek the enemy of fulfilment within ourselves.

The Poetry of Earth

Q. How does Keats establish that the poetry of earth ceases never?

Ans: John Keats establishes the permanence or continuity of poetry of earth in his sonnet 'The Poetry of Earth'. Here the poetry of earth is manifested through the music of nature, which remains unaffected even though seasons change regularly. In summer, when the sun becomes too hot, the birds get fatigued and stop singing. But, just then the tiny grasshopper takes over the lead to continue the music. At one time, he comes under pleasant weeds to rest. Right then comes winter and plays the cricket the same function. When his shrill voice warms the earth, anybody half lost in trance beside a hearth imagines it to the continuation of the grasshopper's song. Thus, through the voices of the creatures of nature, Keats establishes continuity of poetry of earth.
