

Explanations

My induction in politics was at a very early age. Gradually twenty seven years have passed by in the arena of politics. The infallibility of a strong conscience has at times broadened the path to truthful confessions. Sometimes, I put myself to trial at the door of my conscience and analyse myself. Then the stark reality of certain incidents are freed from the depth of the mind—these are my very own true thoughts.

It is not that I have not faced failure during the course of my life. Many a dream has been shattered by a succession of blows. However, these experiences have helped me to gain a more clear insight—I have been able to see through the present day domain of life and deteriorating values in politics that shield the truth—it is all a game of dice.

While narrating the incidents, both factual and true (sometimes unpalatable), I may have written much about myself, but this is not an autobiography. For the time being, my writing is confined to the submission of certain facts based upon what I have truly perceived.

I am not a writer, so there may exist certain faults in the style of narration for which I seek forgiveness. It has not been my intention to hurt anyone personally, nor cast any insinuations. My aim is to place before the people's court, my personal conception of things so that the ideals and values of politics may give a clue to the new generation about the path to be followed amidst today's stark reality. I hope it will enrich their future.

The inspiration behind this book comes from the blessings and warm wishes that I have received from the countless people. In fact, the roots of my "Grassroots"

politics lie in them. I offer my sincerest respect and love to them. It is a great opportunity for me to pay my respect to the former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi, the never-ending flame which showed me the path in the dark world of politics. I also pay homage to the immortal martyrs of 21st July—they who sang the victory song while laying down their lives on the wide thoroughfares of Calcutta.

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