

One Steve... Many Jobs

*"To see the world in a grain of sand,
and to see heaven in a wild flower,
hold infinity in the palm of your hands,
and eternity in an hour..." William Blake*

When William Blake penned these words in a poem in the 18th century, it was fancied as one more addition to the beautiful garden of English poetry, which was already studded with rich gems of English prose and verse. Obviously there was not even the remotest possibility of witnessing the world in a grain of sand since the Silicon revolution with the wonder chips in place was non-existent even in the wildest dreams! Apart from shaking hands and clasping in disgust no one could have imagined holding the world in a palm as physically demonstrated in the Palmtop. From i-Tunes to i-Pad and i-Pod, no one could imagine to experience eternity in an hour...No wonder, poor Steve did not know that he had already been offered the ultimate poetic tribute almost two centuries ago by the poetic genius.

The vast multitude of humanity from the far Eastern Pacific Islands of Kuril to the Western tip of the world was rudely shaken by the sad news of the demise of Steve Jobs on October 5, 2011. Though very few people knew the actual contributions of this innovative genius, millions, nay billions were the fortunate beneficiaries of this creative prodigy. Starting his career as a college dropout and chasing the Indian spiritual ethos in the ashrams of gurus, he launched himself into a creative odyssey which lasted almost till he breathed his last. Whether it was a question of driving his team to success, or delving deep into the realms of spirituality and faith healing to cure his critical disease, he was at his fighting best, when faced with insurmountable obstacles. And he almost succeeded in pushing his way past myriad theories and straight jacket solutions to achieve the impossible – till the ultimate reality overtook the passionate genius.

But only after his death does one realize that right from his name Jobs he had the obsession to reach out to the multitude craving for deliverance through the ethereal space, for it would be too simplistic if a genius was to produce something using the element of earth, soil, water and the sun. Even the half clad poorly literate farmer can produce this magic of the soil. But to visualize, conceptualize, evolve, develop and deliver something out of nothing takes a real genius! Steve connected the world of music to the music of the soul, by using nothing else but a Cloud and a tiny silicon wafer so that the palmtop/i-Tune could deliver the ever-decaying human body; filling it with music from here to eternity.

And in doing so, he provided an immense source of livelihood to the millions who now live 'by the wire' and 'for the wire', developing applications at one end and uploading programmes, music and other content which can enrich, sharpen and energise millions at either end of the spectrum. All this undoubtedly provide work, entertainment, information, knowledge, wisdom and philosophy to last not only this but centuries to come.

Therefore one can sum up contributions of Steve Jobs as One Steve, who is no more but whose inspiration and perspiration have provided millions and millions of Jobs for posterity. We in our country must look inwards and identify and promote such creative geniuses who would be willing to lay down their lives to do this extra bit for humanity. For them, the creative work and passionate life of Steve Jobs is a dynamic example of what one creative genius can offer despite pain and physical handicaps, to conquer adversity through creative immortality...