

Eagles Fly Against the Wind

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Human life is a mixture of hardships and rewards. However, there are only few individuals who accept pain of hardships as a challenge. So, instead of escaping the problem they try to face it and overcome it.

2. How Eagles Fly Against the Wind

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Eagles Fly Against the Wind

Human life is a mixture of hardships and rewards. However, there are only few persons who accept pain of hardships as a challenge. So, instead of escaping the problem they try to face it and overcome it. Friedrich Nietzsche say that to live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering. This is a befitting lesson for those who donot believe in swimming against the waves in the ocean of life. Unlike this majority of people, there are only few persons who believe in themselves and overcome the hardships of life. They never give up before financial obstacles and family expectations. They step out of the comfort zones ^{of life} for fulfilling their aims rather than following dynastic business legacies. Even at professional level, these individuals have to face harsh stones while moving towards their goal in the

form of gender-oriented work environment, monopoly of wealthy business elites and out-dated business model of organizations.

Similarly, at societal level such individuals have to face social stratification leading to prejudices and unequal job opportunities^{-wards}.

They also have to strive against tradition^{-al} education system that stifles their radical ideas. The life of Islamic role models and poetic verses of Iqbal are embodiments of persistence against hardships. The American revolution led by enlightenment philosophy depicts the constant struggle of individuals against oppression. In a nutshell, there are only few individuals who, contrary to majority of people, decide to walk on the path of thorns for achieving their goal.

The metaphor of eagles encapsulates the essence of resilience, tenacity and triumph over adversity. The wind, with its invisible force, shows the adversities of life. Unlike other birds, eagles do not flee from the wind; instead they adjust^{-t} their wings and rise higher. Likewise, there are only few individuals who

adapt to challenges, harness adversity to fuel personal growth and transcend difficulties with unwavering determination. Such individuals break the self-imposed limitations and enable themselves to soar towards their true potential. Thus, by surmounting challenges they achieve greatness and experience the sweet taste of success that comes from overcoming the hardships of life.

The assertion that great people accept hardships as a challenge to their potential is universal truth echoing through the ages. In the symphony of human achievement, the melody of greatness is often composed in the crucible of hardships. They have firm belief that it is not the absence of hardships that defines greatness; but it is their fortitude, which they confront with the troubles of life that actually defines greatness. America's sixteenth President Abraham Lincoln is one of the best examples of these individuals as he had faced numerous failures in his political career. But he continued his struggle and eventually

led the country through civil war, cementing his legacy as one of the greatest presidents of United States. Thus, the great individuals never try to escape challenges of life and carve their names in the annals of history.

The individuals who accept hardships as a challenge to their potential reach their destination by believing in themselves. This belief gives them psychological support that makes them unbreakable wall against all demotivating forces. All the successful personalities have achieved their goals by overcoming turbulences of life because they had strong confidence in their dreams. Steve Jobs is the magnificent example of this kind of individuals. He believed in his commitment in pushing the boundaries of technology. He had faced ousting from his own company at one point but he never gave up and today his company has become the largest organization of technology in the world (Brent Schlender, *Becoming Steve Jobs: The Evolution of a Reckless Upstart into a Visionary Leader*, 2015).

This clearly shows how much faith successful people have in their dreams that paves a path for their success.

Even by believing in themselves, the individuals gain the ability to overthrow the financial obstacles. The path to success is often strewn with financial hurdles but those who accept them as a challenge never give up their ambition. They do not succumb to financial limitations rather use them as catalysts for their potential. One striking example of such individuals is of Rizwan Sajjan who is the co-founder of UAE based Denube Group. He has changed the concept of real estate in Middle East. But he had gone through a lot of financial barriers. He had dropped his education and started working as a vendor. So, it is important to overcome financial hardships while moving towards destination in order to set an example for others.

In addition to financial obstacles, the individuals also face hardships at familial level in the form of fear of family expectations. These expectations are deep rooted in traditions and cultural norms that can exert a powerful pull on the minds of individuals in shaping their choice for their career. However, the individuals who recognize the necessity of self-discovery overcome their fear of family expectations. ^{For example} Paulo Coelho's classic novel "The Alchemist" tells the story of Santiago, a shepherd boy, who was on a journey to pursue his own dreams by overcoming the fear of family expectations. This shows that it is important for individuals not to overshadow their dreams by the fear of family expectations.

While overcoming the fear of family expectations, the great individuals also recognize the reality that they have to step out of comfort zones^{of life} for fulfilling their goal. They step into uncharted territories of discomfort for fulfilling their aims. They believe that it is impossible to chase their dreams while sitting in the comfortable zones of life. Like Cheryl Strayed, one of the renowned authors of the world, had become famous mainly because of her memoir that recounts her 1100 miles solo hike along the Pacific Crest Trail. She began her journey in Mojave Desert and hiked through California and Oregon to the bridge of the Gods in Washington (Cheryl Strayed, Wild, 2012). This clearly highlights the importance of stepping out of comfort zones for achieving a particular goal and great individuals understand this fact so they leave behind their comfortable lives for achieving their ambition.

Most of the individuals prefer sitting in the comfortable zones of life and following the foot steps of dynastic business legacies; while there are few focussed individuals who chase their own dreams. They have different opinion about life than the rest of the world as they believe that the true essence of success lies in the pursuit of personal dreams. Because it is in chase of dreams, the individual become the architect of their destiny. This was the same perception that led Bill Gates towards software world rather than following his father's legacy. He followed his passion and co-founded Microsoft in 1975 that played a pivotal role in revolution of personal computers. His software contributed a lot in the accessibility of computing technology (Stephan Manes, Gates: How Microsoft Mogul Reinvented an Industry - and Made Himself the Richest Man in America, 1993). Hence, these individuals make themselves free from the boundaries of family legacies and

Continue their journey towards their ambition
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also The individuals who follow their aims face numerous challenges at professional level. They encounter gender-oriented work environment that hinders their journey towards their goal. They often find themselves in breaking through gender stereotypes that dictate the perceived role and capabilities of men and women in workplace. Women, in particular, have historically faced challenges in the fields traditionally dominated by men. Its best example is former CEO of Pepsico, Indra Nooyi, who had gone through a lot of difficulties caused by gender-oriented work environment. But her success is a testament to her ability to navigate gender-oriented work environment. This clearly shows that gender-oriented work environment poses great challenge for individuals who want to prove their abilities.

The great individuals who want to prove their guts not only face gender-oriented work environment as an obstacle but also face monopoly of wealthy business elites as a

hindrance to their potential. The arena of entrepreneurship, often hailed as a bastion of innovation and meritocracy, is not immune to the shadows of towering presence of business elites. They create difficulties for fresh entrepreneurs by using their resources. According to Shoshana Zuboff, the behemoths of large tech corporations use their resources to collect massive amount of data for understanding consumer's aptitude. In this way, they control digital landscape thus posing challenge for small innovators who are trying to break through in tech industry. She has discussed Google, Amazon, Facebook, and Microsoft as example of companies that play a dominant role in surveillance capitalism. (The Age of Surveillance, 2018). In this way, the individuals who want to prove their evolutionary ideas face daunting challenge in the form of monopoly of business elites.

other than the monopoly of business elites; Another hindrance that discourages the radical ideas is the prevalence of out-dated business model of organizations. The individuals, harboring innovative ideas, find themselves stifled by the conventional models. The established organizations, riding on the crest of past accomplishments, tend to resist brilliant and innovative ideas that might challenge their existing paradigms. Elon Musk is one of the wonderful examples of such individuals who has faced challenges by out-dated business models of automotive and space industries. But he disrupted these models by promoting electric vehicles and renewable energy. Thus, the traditional business models of organizations are one of greatest challenges for innovators; but those who believe in their ideas never give up and continue their efforts.

The eagles also face challenges at societal level in the form of racism that is a hindrance for emerging talent belonging to that race. The prejudices and biases for certain group of people demotivate those individuals who try to uplift their lives from the boundaries of these prejudices. The biased societies also make such laws and policies that create trouble for these individuals while moving towards their ambition. Jim Crow laws perfectly suit here as example.

Because of these laws, Black people faced problems at the time of hiring, promotion and wages. Despite these unjust laws, Thurgood Marshall became a prominent figure as the first American Supreme Court Justice (Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 1960). This clearly shows how racism is a challenge for those individuals who want to reach their destination.

The individuals who want to become great also face unequal job opportunities that are mainly resulted from social stratification and racism. Even in modern era, there exists a stark contrast between the privileged elite and disenfranchised masses. In the realm of job opportunities, the economic disparity and unequal access to education create a formidable divide.

Pakistani society is highly stratified.

According to World Inequality Database report, the top 10% of Pakistani households earns 42% of the country's income. While the bottom 50% earn only 13%. (Inequality in Pakistan, 2023).

This has led to a surge in the number of out of school children upto 28 million and fall in employment to population ratio upto 47 percent. So, it is impossible to expect equal job opportunities in the presence of this tsunami of discrimination. In this way, unequal job opportunities

are creating hindrance for those who want to rise from poverty and improve their future.

The individuals who want to bring an innovation not only face challenges at societal and professional level but also encounter hardships at educational level in the form of traditional education.

They embody innovation and a relentless pursuit of new horizons; but the traditional education, with its limited room for creativity can stifle their innovative spirit.

The traditional education with its emphasis on risk aversion and adherence to established paths pose a challenge to these individuals. Albert Einstein is one of the best examples of such individuals. His unorthodox thinking and resistance to rote memorization clashed with rigid nature of his early schooling in Germany. This clearly depicts that traditional education system is one of the hardest challenges for those who want to bring innovation.

The individuals who want to bring a change can get inspiration from the life of Islamic role models who have faced atrocities at the hands of pagans. The Islamic history bears witness to remarkable journey of its adherents. The Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.) had faced unbearable challenges in the proclamation of Islam but he never gave up his mission. The Taif incident stands as a powerful illustration of Holy Prophet's (P.B.U.H.) ability to endure hardships and his compassionate response to adversity. He soared above difficulties showing his commitment to his aim. Even because of his determination, he was ranked as the most influential person of the world (Michael Hart, *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Person in History*, 1978). This shows that Islamic role models had chosen an arduous path for the accomplishment of their goals.

It is not only Islamic history that shows the struggle of individuals against hardships, but also Iqbal's poetry is an epitome of perseverance against troubles. Through his verses, he tried to encourage individuals to navigate hardships. In his poetry he has conveyed a message that it is only resolve of individuals that guides him on his journey to bring a change. In his poem, "Kudi ko kar Buland Itna," Iqbal passionately advocates for the elevation of self, presenting it as a beacon that guides individual through the darkest of times (**The Call of Marching Bell, 1924**). In this way, Iqbal made his efforts to motivate those individuals who want to achieve their dreams.

In addition to poetry of Iqbal, the efforts of enlightenment philosophers against despotism are applaudable examples in the context of persistent struggle against strenuousness. They faced fierce political resistance from monarchs in their journey to raise awareness in people in

about their rights. The absolute rulers resisted the call for constitutional limitations on their powers. This resistance led to criticism and censorship on these philosophers. Its one of the (magnifi) remarkable examples is Baron de Montesquieu. He had faced censorship for his seminal work "The Spirit of the laws". Because his ideas on separation of powers were threatening the absolute power of rulers. But he continued his struggle and his ideas laid the foundation of constitution of United states of America. Thus, the enlightenment philosophers despite facing numerous obstacles in their ambition never gave up their efforts.

It is impossible not to quote the struggle of Adam Smith against mercantilism while discussing the era of enlightenment philosophers. He was an eagle ^{who} made tedious efforts for economic liberty by challenging the mercantilist doctrines. He laid the intellectual ground work of

modern economic system. According to Adam Smith, markets should be guided by an invisible hand of demand and supply (*Wealth of Nations*, 1776). Hence, it is impossible to bring a change in prevalent principles of society without making constant efforts.

The enlightenment philosophers had played a key role in triggering American revolution against colonialism. This revolution stands as a compelling example of individuals who dared to fly against prevailing winds of oppression. The colonists were subjected to high taxation and of absolute rule of British. It was mainly due to collective spirit of these individuals, who were aimed at changing their destiny that America got independence from Great Britain. Paul Revere's legendary midnight ride to warn the colonial militias of approaching British forces at Lexington and Concord exemplifies the efforts of these deeply motivated individuals against British oppression. This highlights the efforts of a nation against hardships that

has played a key role in igniting the flames of revolutionary war.

Conclusively, this discussion has shown that although the path to success is filled with uncountable hurdles; but there are only few individuals who believe in themselves and continue their efforts against these obstacles. They never get afraid of financial hardships or family expectations ^{rather} but they stick to their goals and leave behind their comfortable lines for the accomplishment of their goals. Even they never let themselves down due to gender-biasness. They continue their restless journey against prevalent norms of stratified society. The Islamic role models that had carved their names in human history; had done so mainly due to their long struggle against oppression. Similarly, enlightenment philosophers that had played a key

role in bringing a revolution against tyranny; had gone through various hardships. So, ^{the} path towards destination is full of thorns and harsh stones but only those individuals become able to reach their destination who walk on this thorny path. **Each person will only have what they endeavoured towards (Surah 53: Ayat 39 Quran).**