

Learning From the Past Paves the Way for the Future

OUTLINE

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement: The world makes everyone a subject to challenges, but atoning for the mistakes and making those wounds a sign of strength turns the very outlook of life. Therefore, learning from the mistakes ought to be prioritized to prevail amidst the chaos of life.

2- How one should learn from the past and make a successful future

3- Philosophical ideas and perspectives that reiterate that those who learn from the past amend their present and write their future by themselves.

a. God is Dead by Nietzsche

b. Sartre's Existentialism

c. Transcendentalism by Ralph Waldo Emerson

d. Freud's Psychoanalysis theory

4- Delving and learning from the past must be prioritized for spectacular implications

a. Lessens the chances of committing a mistake again

- b. Sharpens the vision like that of falcon
- c. Makes one resilient and invincible
- d. Bestows one with humility

5- Literary Depictions which explain that even though life is hard to live, but those who learn from past makes it a safe haven

- a. Realizing the exploitation of upper class - The Great Expectations by Dickens
- b. Internalizing the need of individualism - A Doll House by Henrik Ibsen
- c. Learning the need to drive the course of life - Waiting for Godot by Beckett
- d. Finding oneself amidst chaos - A Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
- e. Realizing the worth of money in comparison with familial love - The Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
- f. Paving way for Gender Equality - A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf

6- Famous personalities who learned from the past and took the reins of life in one's hand

- a. Learned to work despite rejections - Steve Jobs
- b. Worked for independence of a whole

nation - Muhammad Ali Jinnah

c. Voiced for the equal rights of Black people - Martin Luther King Jr.

7- Conclusion

"The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are strong at the broken places."

(Ernest Hemingway) As Hemingway says that the world breaks everyone including the most brave and gentle people, because the world is not a bed of roses as pointed out by Shakespeare. However, he also mentions that despite the adversities of life, some people rise from the ash like a phoenix rising from death. They learn and grow rather than to sulk over miseries.

The world makes everyone a subject to challenges, but atoning for the mistakes and making those wounds a sign of strength turns the very outlook of life. Therefore, learning from the mistakes ought to be prioritized to prevail amidst the chaos of life. Philosophical ideas and perspectives that reiterate that those who learn from the past amend their present and write their future by themselves

include Nietzsche's God is Dead, Emerson's Transcendentalism, Psychoanalysis by Freud and lastly Existentialism by Sartre. Learning from the past must be made a priority for its fruitful implications like it lessens the chance of committing a mistake and sharpens one vision like that of falcon. It also makes one resilient and invincible yet bestows one with humility. Furthermore, literary depictions explain that even though life is hard to live, but those who learn from past always lead a fruitful life. These literary works include the work of Charles Dickens, Henrik Ibsen and Samuel Beckett. Moreover, the works of James Joyce, Arthur Miller and Virginia Woolf also provide an insight about the perks of learning from relics of past. In the last, famous and renowned personalities, like those of Steve Jobs, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Martin Luther King Jr. are examples of those people who learned from the past and took the reins of life in one's hand. Therefore, despite the fact that life is never easy which sucks the life out of people, the one who learn from mistakes never forget the path to success and felicity.

Socrates was called the wisest man not for his ability to attain knowledge, but for his inquisitive nature. Socrates started questioning the Greeks culture and sources of knowledge and was condemned to death for being a different one. Socrates learned from the mistakes of Greek and sow the seed of knowledge. Plato, his disciple, following suit learned from Socrates and pave the way for future generations through his dialogues. Aristotle, Plato's disciple, also paved the way for future by learning from the mistakes of Plato. Therefore, from the time of Greeks science did success not by complying to other's beliefs but by learning through their mistakes. One should always learn from mistakes and those who learn never fail to attain success.

Among a number of philosophical ideas that reinstate the utility of learning from the mistakes of past, Nietzsche's 'God is Dead' remains the crucial one. Nietzsche says that death of a God is not a negating force, rather it is a liberating force. He reiterates that God cannot be perceived objectively rather God is an objective reality. He emphasizes that the death of traditional

cultural norms is essential for heading a new path of values derived from one's individualism.

Nietzsche learned from the past and shove for a new path for future. To illustrate, Nietzsche says, "God is dead. God remains dead: we have killed

Him" (Friedrich Nietzsche, The Gay Science, 1882)

Thus, Nietzsche, after learning from conventional norms of society, explains people to learn from past and make way for successful future.

Second, the philosophy of Existentialism by Jean Paul Sartre sheds the light for finding a distinctive path. As per Existentialism, Sartre criticizes the preceding idea of Essentialism and learned that it is existence which is foremost and man makes his life decision and purpose of life through the choices he makes. Sartre learned from the past prevailing ideas and reinforces the belief that man makes an excuse of God to get away from miseries of life and gave his theory of Existentialism which stood the tests of time. To explain, Sartre says, "Existence precedes and rules essence." To conclude, Sartre's philosophy is a prime example of taking the reigns of life and learning from past.

In addition to these, Emerson's Transcendentalism plays a crucial role to stamp on the claim that learning from the mistake is essential. Transcendentalism states that one should tread a new path of reconciliation instead of following the prevalent norms of the society. One should make use of critical faculties and analyze them to learn from their mistakes. This would help them to attain individuality and pave a way for future. To illustrate, Emerson says, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." (Emerson) Therefore, Emerson's Transcendentalism emphasizes that one should learn from mistakes and pave way for distinctive future.

In the last, Psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud also explains that learning from the past is essential for inner growth. Sigmund Freud describes that childhood experiences holds a place in one's unconscious and continues to influence the life and interpersonal life of an individual. Sigmund Freud says that one must try to recall the childhood experiences in order to control it by getting it back to consciousness. He says that

when one learns from those experiences, it becomes easy for them to control their life. Freud says, "The only person with whom you have to compare yourself is you in the past." (Sigmund Freud)
To sum up, Freud reiterates to learn from the past, because past experiences play essential role to steer the later life.

Among the number of spectacular implications of learning from the past experiences; the most crucial one is that it lessens the chances of committing a mistake again. When an individual commits a mistake, he learns the lesson in a hard way. At that time, it pierces into the heart of an individual, but it saves one from the misery of falling into that hole again. Hazrat Ali says, "Only a fool stumbles over the same stone twice." (Imam Ali)

Therefore, when an individual learns from the mistakes, it opens various doors of wisdom which do not let one to fall the same way twice.

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Furthermore, when one gets a grasp of a mistake and learns from it, one tends to acquire a sharp vision like that of a falcon. Struggling through chaos and making mistakes helps one to develop a sharp vision, because one gets permeable of mistakes. It makes one a falcon which always has a determined and sharp target which would leave no stone unturned in getting successful. For example, Aristotle learned from the mistakes of Plato and did not conform, but made a path for future generations through his diverse ideas of disciplines. Aristotle says, "Plato is dear, Truth is dear. Nay truth is dearer than Plato." (Aristotle). Thus, when one learns from past, one acquires a vision rivaling that of a falcon.

Additionally, atoning for the past mistakes and deducing a lesson from those helps one to become resilient and invincible. When an individual learns from the past mistakes, it ignites in him the power of resilience and invincibility. It makes one a force to be reckoned with despite all the wounds. For example, Boxer Muhammad Ali

learned from his life and left no stone unturned to achieve success as a world's powerful boxer. He turned out to be a resilient and astonishingly invincible person. Muhammad Ali said, "He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." (Boxer Muhammad Ali). Therefore, the world breaks even the most brave people, but those who learn from past remain a force of resilience and invincibility.

In the last, learning from the mistakes of past not only turns one to be resilient and invincible, but also bestows him with humility. When one learns the things in hard way and it shatters him into pieces, he tends to either get cold or humble. One learns to be humble, because one has already tasted the bitter aspects of life and would not want any other person to suffer the way one suffered. To explain Zora Neil Hurston said, "Some people could look at a mud puddle and see an ocean with ships." (Zora Neil Hurston). To conclude, another implication of drawing lessons from past is that it makes one humble and gentle.

Literature is a reflection of life. It depicts social, cultural, economic, psychological and prevalent norms belonging to that era. Similarly, literature has also been used to explore the theme of learning from the past and paving a way for future.

To start with, literature has been used to illustrate that one realizes the exploitation of upper class and gets out of bubble that elite class is the most decent. Charles Dickens, in his novel 'The Great Expectation', draws the character of Pip who learns from his past that social mobility and wealth at the expense of moral norms are useless. Pip felt his heart shattered when he was harshly treated for being a boy belonging to lower class. Pip says, "In a word, I was too cowardly to do what I knew to be right, as I had been too cowardly to avoid doing what I knew to be wrong." (Charles Dickens The Great Expectations). To sum up, Charles Dickens illustrates through Pip that one must realize from mistakes and tread a new path of felicity.

Second, literature has also illustrated the need of internalizing individualism when one forgets oneself amidst chaos of life.

Ibsen, in his classic play *A Doll House*, draws the character of Nora who got her heart broken when she realizes how she was controlled all her life by gender norms. Nora clutches her heart and feels a piercing when she gets to realize that she was treated like a doll all her life with no sense of individuality and emotions. Her eyes brimmed with tears when she saw her husband rubbing off all blames on her despite her sacrifices. She learns from her past and decides to keep herself above all as she says, "I only feel my life unspeakably empty. No one to live for anymore." (Henrik Ibsen, A Doll House). Thus, Ibsen illustrates through Nora that those who learn from past never fail miserably.

In addition to these, literary works have also drawn attention to the theme that one learns to drive the course of life. Samuel Beckett, in his absurdist play '*Waiting for Godot*', draws the attention of readers to the fact that if one does not learn the need of driving the

course of life, one would forever lead an absurd and a meaningless life. Vladimir and Estragon waited for Messiah, called Godot, miserably to save them only to get their patience into smoke. They learned a hard way that one must take the steering of one's life in one's own hands.

Estragon says, "Nothing happens. Nobody comes, nobody goes. It's awful" (Samuel Beckett, Waiting For Godot). Thus, literature has also been used to support that one must learn and grow.

Moreover, literature has also explained the need of realizing worth amidst chaos after analyzing the past. James Joyce has sketched the character of Stephan in his novel 'A Portrait Of an Artist as a Young Man' who learned after a long to pursue his individuality rather than following conformity. Stephan tries to follow the conventional norms of the society to get himself fit in the world only to lose his individual and self-attainment. Stephan towards the end of novel realizes and learns this from his past mistakes and pave a way for his bright future. Therefore, literature has revealed that when one learns from past, it becomes easy

for one to drive the course of his life.

Additionally, literature has also elaborated that how one learn the worth of familial bonding in comparison with money. Arthur Miller, in his famous play 'A Death Of a Salesman' draws the character of Willy Loman who delved in the flinching idealism of his American dream that he even forsake the love of his family. He did but could not put smiles on his sons' faces when he realized how brutally he failed as a person who could achieve neither money nor familial affection. Therefore, Arthur Miller through the character of Willy Loman introduces the theme of learning from the past instead of grieving the lost chances.

In the last, learning from the past and utilizing it to pave a way for future with gender equality, literature has shed light on it. Virginia Woolf in her short non-fiction books 'A Room of one's own' reveals the misogyny and phallogentric phenomenon of society. Woolf after realizing the inherent need of men to subjugate and oppress women leads the foundation of gender parity notion without even using the

word feminism. Woolly writes while portraying the unflinching truth of society that, "The history of men's opposition to women's emancipation is more interesting perhaps than the story of that emancipation itself." To sum up, Woolly is one of prime examples of those who analyzed the past and tread a new path of gender equality in future.

Shakespeare said that life is not a bed of roses and wrote "I fell on the thorns of life! I bleed." Similarly, life tests everyone, but those who remained steadfast with refresh and resilient spirit always prevailed, for they learned, grew and embraced life.

To start with, Steve Jobs is among those people who did not let rejection define him and learned lessons out of his outrageous miseries. Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple and pixel, was thrown out of his own company. However, he did not let failure and rejection get to his head and worked hard despite facing humiliation and excruciating agony. He learned from his mistakes and got back

in his company with more power, wisdom and most importantly experience. Steve Jobs said, "Don't let the noise of others' opinion drown out your inner voice." (Steve Jobs) Thus, through the downfall and risery tale of Steve Jobs that those who are smart never fall twice from the same stone.

Second, Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the architect of Pakistan, is also a profound example of those who learned from past and set a straight vision for the future. Quaid initially strove for the unity of Hindus and Muslims and was deeply disappointed to realize how wrong he was to consider them as a single nation. He joined Muslim League and left no stone unturned to pave a way for a separate homeland for Muslims of the subcontinent. Quaid said, "Failure is a word unknown to me." To conclude, Jinnah was among those who shied away from learning through mistakes and never let it become an issue of ego.

In the last but not the least, Martin Luther Junior is among those renowned personalities who stood for the rights of Black community after learning the atrocities of whites.

Black people were brutally and inhumanely treated by the Americans and they had no say in their social, political, economic and any other aspects of life. Martin Luther King Jr. saw all of this and felt a jolt to realize the level of pain the blacks had to go through. He led the Civil Rights Movement and became a champion of rights of Blacks.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." (Martin Luther King Jr.) Thus, Martin Luther is among those who learned and revolutionized the world.

In conclusion, world tests everyone - the very good, the very brave and the very gentle. However, those who carry their scars like medals and learn from the mistakes do not let fate decide their lives. Therefore, people should learn and pave way for their future. Philosophical perspectives that reinstate that one should take the reigns of one's life

in hands and change the dimensions of life include God is Dead by Nietzsche, Emerson's Transcendentalism, Sartre's Existentialism and Psychoanalysis of Freud. Moreover, owing to the spectacular impacts of making one's past a guide, one lessens the chances of failure and makes oneself resilient and invincible. It sharpens one's vision and makes them humble at the same time. Furthermore, the literary works such as *The Great Expectations*, *A Doll House* and *Waiting for Godot* further reinforce the belief of never underestimating the past lessons. James Joyce, Arthur Miller and Virginia Woolf put icing on the cake by reiterating the notion further. In the last, the renowned personalities of Steve Jobs, Quaid-e-Azam and Martin Luther King Jr. stamp this notion through their unflinchingly remarkable contributions. Therefore, even if life drags one to downfall when everything is miserable, but there is always light at the end of the tunnel and rightly it is quoted that if there is a will, there is a way.