

Topic: A Ship in Harbor is Safe, But That is not What Ship is For.

### Outline

- I. Introductory remarks: Aristotle said that every-thing has purpose in this life.
- II. Thesis Statement: The quote, "A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ship is for" inspires and encourages individuals and nations to take risks, overcome fear and face challenges and adversities by diving into the unknown ocean of life.
- III. Decoding of statement.
- IV. Negative impacts on ship being berthed in harbor.
- V. Understanding true purpose ship.
- VI. Downside for individuals who stay in their comfort zone like a docked ship.
  - A. Paul-Sexton's concept of bad faith and example of imaginary writer.
- VII. Benefits for individuals who dive into unknown ocean of life:
  - A. It provides growth opportunities for growth.
  - B. It helps individuals to find

their purpose ✓

C. It helps them achieve their true potential ✓

D. It enriches life with <sup>new</sup> experience and knowledge. ✓

E. It encourages innovation and growth. ✓

VIII. Illustrations of individuals who have sailed the uncertain ocean of life:

A. Helen Keller refused to be alone in the ocean of isolation. ✓

B. Nelson Mandela faced huge waves of opposition. ✓

C. Marie Curie defied the challenges of her society. ✓

IX. Nations which became complacent and got destroyed or erased.

A. Ottoman Empire did not embrace new circumstances and disintegrated. ✓

B. USSR refused to take risks and dismembered. ✓

X. Nations that have faced challenges and become stronger like ship in the open sea.

A. Japan and its struggle to become great again is a stirring example. ✓

XI. What lessons can be learnt from this quote.

A. Overcoming fears is essential in life ✓

B. Taking risk is a part and parcel of life ✓

C. Facing challenges is the process of growth. ✓

XII. Concluding remarks: life like ship is worth while if individuals or nations sail into the ocean of unknown. ✓

Essay.

Everything in this world is created for a specific purpose. ✓ Aristotle, the great ancient philosopher, once said: "Everything has 'Telos', meaning purpose or end in life." ✓ Similarly, a ship is built for sailing in to the vast ocean and facing huge waves. ✓ If the ship is in harbor, it may be safe, but it does not serve its purpose. ✓ Therefore, it can be deemed as useless and worthless. ✓ In the same way, individuals and nations can not reach their

true potential of they stay in their  
comfort zones. The only way they can  
obtain their true potential is to dive into  
the unknown and uncertain ocean of  
life. This uncharted voyage can help  
them to grow stronger and better. Sighted  
like Helen Keller, Nelson Mandela and Marie  
Curie have sailed this vast ocean  
of uncertainty in their lives with unwavering  
commitment and sheer will, and emerge  
victorious in the test of life. Likewise,  
several nations like Japan have faced  
enormous challenges to become great  
powers. In short, the quote, "a ship  
in harbor is safe, but that is not  
what ship is for" inspires and  
encourages individuals and nations to  
take risks, overcome fear and face  
challenges and adversities by diving into  
the unknown ocean of life.

The quote "a ship in harbor  
is safe, but that is not what ship is for"  
is said by John A. Shedd, an American  
author and businessman. During his speech  
to small community of businessmen, Mr. Shedd  
said these words so as to encourage

them to take risks and leave their comfort zone. The fact is that ship is safe in harbor, but safety of ship is not the main concern. Ship's true purpose is to brave huge waves in the open sea. If it does not sail in sea, it becomes useless in no time.

Why is it not good for ship to stay in harbor? The answer is simple. If a ship is beached at shores, it becomes rusty and its parts start decaying faster. Within no time, ship will need repairing and in some cases it gets destroyed beyond repair. Although it is safe in harbor, it decays at much higher rate than a sailing ship because it does not serve the purpose it is built for. Therefore, safety, comfort and complacency are good in short-term, but they do greater damage in long-term.

The true purpose of ship is not staying in harbor, rather its primary end is to sail into the unknown and uncharted sea routes. The entire design of ship is built

in such a way to brave the huge waves of oceans and stormy weather of sea. Can anyone say that ship is built to be docked at shores? The answer is the same people would disagree with that. They would say that ship should sail in the open sea regardless of dangers. In short, facing stormy weather and huge waves is what gives true meaning to ship and its essence.

Having said that, individuals, like docked ship, feel safe in their comfort zones. But this staying in their no-problem zone has multiple downsides for individuals. The first one is the lack of opportunities to grow. Another is the burden of unfulfilled potential. The last but most important is the boredom and laziness, which acts in their lives. John Paul Sartre has termed it a "Bad faith", meaning leading life not in line with your true potential.

In this regard, he gave the example of imaginary writer who does not like his job, but the fear of quitting is keeping him to do this writing job. He is dissatisfied with his life. He is living

in bed faith. This is what happens to people who stay in their comfort zones.

Nonetheless, benefits of diving into unknown ocean of life are manifold. The most significant advantage of exploring the sea of life is that it provides growth opportunities. Individuals who have stepped into unknown and availed opportunities that no one can imagine. Take the example of Elon Musk. He has become billionaire because he has not stayed in his comfort zone and has always challenged his limits. Thus, sailing in the ocean of life can provide vast opportunities in life.

Another beauty of exploring the sea of life is that it helps people to find their purpose in life. When people try different things and experience different feelings, they can find their spark or purpose, meaning what they are good at or what makes them happy. John Paul Sartre said, "purpose of life is not something you invent, it is something you discover". This is

Adding to that, several individuals who have sailed the uncertain ocean of life and emerged stronger and achieved a better version of themselves. One such individual who have proved her mettle against the worst odds of life is Hellen Keller. She was blind and deaf by birth. She refused to stay in the deep ocean of isolation and decided to embark her journey on the uncharted path. Her courage and determination won all the praise as she became one of influential writers of her times regardless of challenges. Her voyage in life will be remembered in "golden words" in the annals of history.

Similarly, Nelson Mandela faced mountains of challenges on path to end apartheid system in his country. He imprisoned for 27 years and languished in it, but he refused let go of his dream/vision. After each challenge in his life, he became more stronger. The quote that became torch-bearer for in those dark hour is, "I am master of my ship, and I am captain of my soul." No doubt, Nelson Mandela was the captain of his ship in his life and



only possible if one is willing to explore the uncharted paths in life like ship does in sea.

Like vice, sailing into ocean of life can help individuals achieve their true potential. In order to be the best version of their selves, individuals have to face challenges and make mistakes. These mistakes and adversities would compell individual to improve thins and learn from their mistakes. In this way, individuals can become their best versions and can attain their true potential in life.

Last but not the least, exploration of life in its entirety can enrich life with new experiences and knowledge. Whenever a person goes outside, he meet different people and learn from them. The explorers like Marco Polo, Ibn-Batuta and christopher Columbus have acquired the knowledge of different cultures and societies by stepping on uncharted paths. Thus, exploration of life and its different aspect can be the best source of knowledge and new experiences in life.

decided in which direction he intended to. Lastly, Marie Curie was also captain her ship. She set the direction of her ship against the storm of her society. She was the first woman to explore the unexplored in the field of science. She faced criticism and other challenges. But her ship never stayed at the shores. She always sailed in the path of nurse waves and became the first woman to receive 'Nobel Prize' in her field.

Adding to that, Complacency has sown the seeds of many nations. Take example of Ottoman empire. They became complacent in their economic growth and refused to embrace new technological advancements like printing press machine and soon they were erased from the map of the world. The same has happened in the case of USSR. In early 1970s, USSR became complacent and refused to adapt according to changing circumstances. This was the beginning of end of the USSR and it collapsed in 1991.

That said, nations that face challenges and become stronger like ship in the open sea. The glowing example of this is Japan. She was nuked twice and her major cities were erased to ground. But Japan's ship did not stay docked. She soon repaired her ship and sailed in the ocean of boundless opportunities and became more stronger. Thus, nations which face challenges and set their resources to overcome them become more stronger and better.

Moreover, there are several lessons that can be learnt from this quote.

The most valuable lesson is to overcome fear. Fear of unknown and fear of uncertainty is what has forced people to stay in their comfort zones.

This quote encourages individuals to see the fear in eyes and keep sailing in the ocean of opportunities.

The only way to overcome fear is to face it. Fear disappears when a person starts doing things or starts

facing the most feared things. Therefore it is advisable for individuals to overcome

fear if they want to grow in life.

Another most important lesson this quote teaches is to take risks. Taking risk should be the cornerstone of everyone's life. Risks, especially calculated risks, increases chances of people's success in every endeavor of life, be it family-related, social, economic or professional. Harshad Mehta, a stock-market Big Bull, said, "Risk is life and must be taken from time to time." Therefore, it is right to say that all successful <sup>people</sup> and high-achievers have taken risks in their lives. Life is not worth living if risks are not taken from time to time.

Last but not least, facing challenges in life is the process of growth. Every challenge in life or any crisis is an opportunity to grow, to change perspective and see the situation from different angle. In comfort zone, there is no growth. Thus, it is called as no growth zone. Therefore, the key to <sup>leading</sup> a fulfilling life is to face challenges. The great figures of history such as Stephen Hawking, Thomas Edison and many others faced challenges in their lives and became even stronger.

by overcoming them.

In the light of above argument it can be concluded that like ship life is worth living if people as well as nation sail in the vast and unknown ocean of life. Ship is built to sail in the open sea, not be docked at shores. If it is berthed at harbor, it becomes rusty and obsolete.

Similarly, if individual and nations stay in their comfort zones, they too become stagnant. The best way to achieve their

true potential is to step into the uncertain open of life with courage.

Individuals such as Helen Keller, Nelson Mandela and Marie Curie were the great voyagers of their time and faced every challenge with a smile on their faces. Moreover, nations, including Japan,

have overcome major obstacles in their way by taking risks and facing challenges.

Therefore, staying in comfort zone and playing safe in life like docked ship must be avoided and it is advisable for every individual and nations to take

risk and face challenges and overcome them

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