

Every Dark Cloud has a Silver Lining in it.

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Surely with hardships comes ease. This Quranic verse is synonymous with ^{proverb} every dark cloud has a silver lining in it.

Here, 'every dark cloud' symbolizes hardships and gloomy days while silver lining means rays of hope and better days.

So, this proverb means that after every stormy night shines a bright day.

This proverb signifies the arrival of spring and summer after autumn and winter. But, the fruits of success are promised only to those who are willing to bear the consequences and patiently overcome the effects of storm.

Bridge is not crossed by waiting for the river to dry down. What's important, to cross the bridge and reach to other side, is to strive to cross the bridge.

This essay holds explanation to the concept of silver lining on the individual, national and global level that made great nations overcome dark clouds that appeared on the way to greatness.

Firstly, the field of medicine not, by any means, is an easy job. This particular field requires full dedication and perseverance, and not all are able to do justice to it. Still, there exist people like Florence Nightingale, Dr Ruth Pfau and Abdul-Sattar Edhi who struggle to pave way for others. Such people happen

to be silver linings in dark clouds. Florence Nightingale - a celebrated subject of history, known for her services for war patients, was actually at first criticized for her work. People tried to demoralize her by ridiculing her. But, that dainty faced the opprobrium and continued to offer her services wholeheartedly. So, in the end, she was honored with the title of Nightingale - Lady with lamp by the injured soldiers.

Likewise, Dr Ruth Pfau - a young German lady who landed on Pakistani soil in 1981, sacrificed her life for the treatment of patients of leprosy. It was the time when leprosy was considered incurable and the patients were usually left abandoned. She appeared as silver lining for those suffering with that contagious disease. It was due to her efforts that there are at least 157 leprosy centres all over Pakistan and over more than 60,000 patients treated. Another shining star is Dr. Abdul-Sattar Edhi. His services for humanity knew no bounds. He would be there for refugees in Iran, Afghanistan and for victims of war in Palestine and Syria. He provided shelters to abandoned parents, children and even animals. He provided ambulances, air-ambulances and motorbike ambulances in times of emergency and disasters. He

was the silver lining of thousands of people within and outside of border.

Secondly, politics is no different. With true wisdom and actions, people can change fate of thousands of members of a nation. Big names in the field of politics, who became silver lining for their fellows, are of M. Ali Jinnah and Martin Luther King Jr. Mr. Jinnah was honored with the title of 'Quaid-e-Azam' for he was the figure in history who stood for the rights of muslims of sub-continent. He advocated muslims case by demanding a separate homeland for them. It was due to his bravery, wisdom, and intellect that muslims fought tooth and nail with the British and the Indians, and later achieved a separate country. Mr. Jinnah, when once asked by Shakespeare to appear on theatre, replied that he will appear on world theatre. He stood true to his words and earned himself a mark in world's history by becoming silver lining of those oppressed and enslaved.

Similarly, Mr. Martin happened to be the silver lining for thousands of Negroes who were the victims of discrimination. On a march/protest in Washington, Mr. Martin delivered a historical speech 'I had a dream'. In this poem, he demanded equal rights and liberties for the Black as were enjoyed

by the White. His speech created a wave of surprise and consciousness throughout America. His address gave 250,000 and more negroes hope and revived their efforts. It is, because of his speech that the Black and the White co-exist now and celebrate same rights. Thus, Mr. King was the silver lining for negroes in dark clouds of discrimination.

Thirdly, literature or writing is not heritage of a few noble and pious people. It is ruled by those who hold pens as magical wands in their hands. Such people enlighten the brains of caged men & women. Allama Iqbal, also known as 'Shair-e-mashiq', rose as silver lining for muslims in sub-continent when dark shadows of slavery and brutality surrounded them. His poems invoked in them sense of independence, and ingrained their brains with a need for struggle. His belligerent poems awoke muslims, and later they succeeded in achieving a separate land for themselves. Thus, Iqbal is that ray of light that peeks through the dense clouds. Likewise, Jane Austen - a famous writer, is an example of strength and determination for women all around. Born in the era when women were denied rights and liberties, she opposed the rules.

She used her magical wand when women were considered inferior and just a being with no right to think, act and opine or reason. She was ridiculed, but her riposte to the opprobrium was in the form of her novels. She is the silver lining for hundreds of girls who still suffer silently. Lastly, there comes the field of sports which in third world countries like Pakistan is not a profession for women. But despite the societal stereotypes, the young ladies in Pakistan have stepped forward to conquer this area as well.

Sana Mir - the captain of Pakistan's women cricket team is a silver lining for herself and for hundreds of girls who watch the boys around them play and conquer it daily, but hold back due to patriarchal approach. Sana has set an example for all of them to pursue their dream and ~~don't~~ ^{to not} stop unless ~~you~~ they succeed. Then, there is an example of Samina Baig and Ali Sadpara - both the conquerors of world's highest peaks. They give the lesson that despite the ~~despite~~ dark clouds in journey, do not stop. They are the heroes of those still caught in uncertainty and hesitation.

Uptil now, the essay has discussed about those individuals who rule their fields and act as silver lining for themselves and others. The impacts of their determination are huge. Now, the essay will discuss dark clouds and silver lining peeking through them on national and global level.

Pakistan has found herself surrounded in dark clouds from the very beginning. At the time of Independence, the unjust distribution of assets harmed Pakistan on one side and the destruction of already available assets by the Indian workers on the other side. This raised serious administrative issues but neither the Govt, nor its people backed down. All of them fought their way through the dense fog. After gaining little stability, Pakistan once again met the dark clouds in the form of 1965 war. Following Indian invasion, Pakistan's President asked the nation for donations to fight the attack. Pakistanis participated both in donations and war fully. High esteem and morale of the nation and its army paved the way for success of Pakistan over India. Pakistan's history is not limited to only these dark clouds but there are more. Shortly, after 1965 war, separation of East Pakistan shocked

the nation. That was quite a shock, but the nation's ship did not dwindle. Pakistan overcame that separation and soon became the only muslim atomic power. Becoming an atomic power sent the world the message of strength of Pakistan and the repercussions that followed due to any escalation. Then again, Pakistan faced challenges with burgeoning terrorism and target killing. And yet again, following suit Pakistan countered with Zarb-e-Azb, a military mission that fought terrorists and led them out of the country. These examples highlight how Pakistan was surrounded by dark and dense clouds of war, terrorism and poverty and how the nation overcame it all with hard work and determination.

Silver lining exists on broad level of worlds as well. History is full of examples of countries who when surrounded by thick and dark smokes of collapse, war and famine found their light no matter how dense the fog was. The history bears witness to the struggle and hard work the nations did when faced with hardships and uncertainties. Such are the countries that stayed resolute and now rule the world. China has faced uncertainty from the time of death of

imperial rule. Lacking firm mode of government, facing guerilla wars from farmers, huge protests, political instability and war with Germany, China faced it all. But, their allegiance to success and prosperity, enabled them to work tirelessly, clean-up the mess, and develop a political theory and mode of Government. Now, China is an economic power and rules all the markets. Not just that, she also extends her assets for the betterment of other countries. Chinese sweated in beginning for sure, but later found their peace and comfort.

Another such example is of Germany. Germany has continuously been the victims of world wars. World war 1 and 2 both affected Germany economically, politically and morally. Out of 65 million people, 1.7 million died in war and 430,000 civilians died during war. The second world war had even more dire impacts. Thousands lost their lives due to bombing and millions lost their land and became refugees. Germany faced famines during wars. With the bombing on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, some 226,000 people died. But these hardships did not demoralize Germans, but actually strengthened their desire

to rise to their former glory. They underwent economic reforms and built their industries from scratch. Soon, they dominated all industries of the world. That's how, Germany found its ray of light in gloomy winter days.

Great Britain makes another example. Decolonization of Britain between 1945 and 1960 stripped her of her title as Imperial Power. It also affected Britain economically and socially. With no longer able to access raw material from its colonies, she faced economic decline. But, she soon overcame all challenges with her great system of education. Britain system of education dominates the world and Britain generates major revenue by it. United States of America is another example of nations who found their path in the dark. 13 member states have been exposed to world wars, cold wars and attacks of terrorism but nothing could vanquish their desire to success. With good economical, technological and educational reforms, they appear on the map as the most developed nation. That means, they found their shore after a stormy night.

To conclude, struggle, hardwork, determination and perseverance are must have's if someone wants to conquer history. Those who lack these traits cannot make it to finish line like that sleeping hare who lied down to rest ~~when~~ mid-journey. Thus, was defeated by that crawling turtle who did not rest until he achieved his goal. Hence, it is a proven fact that dark clouds do not remain on the sky forever, nor an eclipse lasts for eternity. The only thing to remember is that an arrow can only be shot when pulled backwards.
