

# Hardships: The True Test of Human Character

## Outline

1. Introduction
2. Correlating hardships and human character
3. How hardships are true test of human character
  - a. Teaches an individual to remain persistent despite tough circumstances;
    - i. Hardships faced by Edmond Dantes in The Count of Monte Cristo
  - b. Hardships between husband and wife educate and improve their empathetic understanding for each other.
  - c. Intergenerational problems can be managed effectively with patience.
  - d. Petty disputes among friends do not weaken their friendship
  - e. Managing tough times efficiently can increase solidarity among social groups
    - i. Concept of Ibn-e-Khaldun's Asabiya.
  - f. Economic hardships test a person's will to avoid stealing
  - g. Political struggles are always a test for the leader's character
    - i. Churchill's will power during Second World War
  - h. Hardships are essential elements for attaining moral victories

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i. Religious persecution makes a believer more steadfast in his faith.

i. Despite repeated persecution by Israel, the faith of Palestinians is unshaken.

j. Repeated failures test the resolve of a person.

i. Edison's failures led to invention of the light bulb.

#### 4. Conclusion



## Essay

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No person who is considered great today became great if he did not encounter hardship. In his life To achieve greatness, one must face some struggle. If he manages to confront it, he will emerge as a stronger person; it would denote the strength of his character. Hardships come in all forms and sizes. Similarly, the respective response to them is not constant. Those with weak attributes let the hardship win whereas those who possess some mettle sail through with victory. Hardships teach individuals to remain persistent despite tough circumstances. Husbands and wife frequently have quarrels that need to be solved amicably. Children often do not see eye to eye with their parents, yet their disputes need to be settled empathetically and not violently. Even friends seem to have disagreement but they do not escalate. If they are resolved effectively. Managing disputes effectively can improve solidarity among social groups. Economic troubles test a person's values and political troubles of leaders test their social stature. Such hardships can be overcome to attain a significant moral victory. Hence, the following discussion would argue how hardships are the true test of human character.

Hardships can be defined as conditions

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and situations that go against a person's desired outcome. They include social hardships, economic troubles, and personal issues. Regardless of the type of hardship, they always prove to be a test for the person's character. A person's honesty, integrity, and will power are his arsenal to deal with such problems. These attributes are used to confront and win over the various hardships a person can encounter.

Hardships are the true test of a person's character as they teach an individual to remain persistent despite tough circumstances. A person's journey towards a goal is not a straight path; it involves many bumps. The character of Edmund Dantes, in the classic novel, "The Count of Monte Cristo," is depicted as an honest and hardworking sailor who is wrongfully imprisoned for eighteen years. The author, Alexander Dumas, portrays him as a man of strong character, who bears his imprisonment and keeps on improving himself. His persistence ultimately prevails and he becomes supremely successful. The hardship of wrongful punishment was borne with patience and this showed his strength of character. As hardships teach an individual the quality of persistence, they are the true test of a person's character.

Likewise, patience plays a very important part in a person's relations. Hardships between husband and wife are solved due to their empathetic understanding for each other. Being two different

individuals, the two partners frequently disagree on many topics. For instance, they want to go to the restaurant for celebrating their anniversary. This problem acts like a thorn in their relationship and frequent disagreements can erode mental peace and destroy their relationship. However, if both try to empathetically view their problem, an amicable agreement can soon be achieved. In this way, disagreements between couples can be resolved amicably.

Moreover, intergenerational issues between parents and children can be managed in a similar way. Children often view their parents as traditional and both the parents and children do not agree on basic issues. For example, a child may not want to pursue the type of education that his parents want for him. This dispute can translate into a major hardship if the difference between parents and their children grows. It is a true test for a person's character as it takes a lot of patience, reasoning, and convincing to convey your point especially to a stubborn child. Hence, solving such disputes requires a person to be very reasonable in his approach in order to resolve the conflict.

Similarly, better sense prevails when petty disputes among friends do not destroy their friendship. All social groups have disagreements and humans being emotional creatures can have emotional outbursts. Friends could see this dispute as a hardship when their

friend circle starts having issues. Friends may not be very close after a loud public disagreement. However, such an issue can be managed by wise people who do not let the minor scuffle destroy the overall friendship of the group in this way, such hardships test the overall social wisdom of individuals.

Tackling social hardships at a broader level can lead to increase in social solidarity. All societies have to face various problems like disunity and social deviance. If such problems are eradicated at a mass level, social solidarity increases and the feeling of oneness emerges. Ibn Khaldun wrote about his concept of Asabiya in primitive societies. It is the collective solidarity of groups that reflects an individual's character writ large. Hence, tackling social problems leads to enhanced social solidarity of a society.

Moving on from social hardships to economic hardships, individual troubles with economy are a true test of a person's character. Due to shortage of funds, he might resort to socially disapproved behaviour like stealing and other criminal enterprises. However, a person with a strong character will refuse to engage in such activities and will use justified and socially approved ways for earning. For example, a morally upright person

could start two jobs instead of stealing. In this way, economic hardships depict themselves as a true test of human character.

As economically well off individuals venture into politics, they confront hardships of various types. Political struggles are of a greater magnitude and test an upright person more severely. The upright character of Winston Churchill in 1940s led to the victory of Great Britain over the Nazi Germany. Churchill was an astute statesman who did not back away from public eye, despite strong opposition and unfavourable economic conditions. By overcoming the fright of Hitler, he emerged as a taller and more effective leader; a testament to his strong character. Thus, political hardships are deemed to be a litmus test for the leaders; they can either win or die away with history.

Hardships are essential elements for attaining moral victories. It is only after a tough time that a person can or nation can emerge victorious. The Communist scare of Cold War was a hardship for the Western countries. They had to confront proxy wars in the form of Vietnam and Afghanistan. After repeated efforts they overcame the scourge of was a moral victory for can be attributed to their and perseverance. Similar to the moral strength of nations after a persistent struggle and facing hardships.

u can write here examples of different nations which emerged successful

an individual's religious fervour has to confront the hardships of the time. Religious persecution targets members of a particular religion. The uprightness of the members of that group determines whether it will perish or persevere the hardships. The Palestinians have been massacred yet they refuse to give up their adherence to Islam. This superior virtue of the oppressed has earned the respect of uncountable nations who have simultaneously shunned Israel for its barbarity. In this way, religious hardships are a true test for a faithful believer.

Hardships can also appear in the form of repeated failures. Such failures can either shake the resolve of an individual or make it even firmer. Thomas Edison, the inventor of the light bulb did not achieve this feat in his first try. He failed over a hundred times and claimed that he did not fail; instead, he just found a way that did not work. This optimistic approach speaks volumes about the character of this genius inventor. Thus, overcoming repeated failures denotes the strength of an individual.

To sum up the discussion, this essay discussed how hardships are the true test of human character. They teach a person to remain persistent and this builds an individual's character. Hardships can take place in various forms among couples, family, and friends. Despite their existence, they

provide an individual with the opportunity to be more empathetic, reasonable, and practical. Economic hardships test a person's honesty and integrity. Political hardships can make or break a leader's resolve. Religious groups learn to be steadfast while facing hardships directed at them. Just like change is considered to be a constant, hardships too are a constant. It is up to the individual how he confronts them for whatever ~~ever~~<sup>now</sup> way he faces them, it will reveal his own character.