

Essay

Hope: The Greatest Driving Force

Outline

1. Introduction

No force in the world has moved man as powerfully as hope. It has altered the course of history, transformed the map of the world, and steered humanity towards moral, religious and political upgradation.

II. Hope as the Greatest Moral Force

A. Hope as the basis of perseverance

• Ya'qub (AS) not giving up on his son and the eventual reconciliation with Yusuf (KAS)

B. Hope giving reason to abide by the truth even in the face of oppression

• Socrates choosing hemlock over lying

C. Hope driving one to continue living even with a dead end ahead

- Robinson Crusoe: Spending 28 years on an island hoping to return home some day.

III. Hope As The Greatest Religious Force

A. It gave Adam and Eve to adapt to the temporal world

B. Hope made the early Muslims to tolerate persistent persecution hoping for the victory of Islam

C. Hope as a medium of connecting man with God

- Bulleh Shah's asceticism only to get close to God

IV. Hope as the Greatest Political Force

A. Hope raising the morale of a small army to face a large one

- 300 Spartans versus 100,000 Persians

B. Hope driving empires for maximum power acquisition in the quest of becoming a superpower

- British Empire's imperialistic aspirations

C. Hope turning the unthinkable into a concrete reality

- the making of Pakistan

V. Can Hope Ever Be An Impediment?

A. Excessive hope can lead to idleness and therefore, retrogression of humanity

B. Hope used by religious fanatics to exploit the masses

"Religion is the opium of the masses." Karl Marx

"It is easier for a camel to pass through a needle hole than a rich man to enter paradise." Biblical text

VI. Conclusion