

Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely

1. Introduction:

Power itself does not corrupt; rather, absolute power leads to corruption.

2. Power itself does not corrupt:

2.1. Power is a neutral tool; its ethical outcome depends on the character of the individual.

— Case Study of
Hazrat Ali (R.A)

2.2. Power does not inherently corrupt; ethical self-restraint determines its exercise

— Case Study of
George Washington

3. Absolute Power corrupts absolutely: Validation from history

3.1. Had Caligula not acquired absolute power, his personal whims could not have translated into systemic cruelty

3.2. Had Ferdinand Marcos not consolidated absolute political power, personal enrichment and suppression of dissent could not have been institutionalized

3.3. Had Hitler's totalitarian power been constrained, the holocaust could have been avoided

3.4. Had Ivan IV not held absolute power, mass executions and oppression

could have not occurred

4. Societal validation of the fact that absolute power corrupts absolutely:

4.1. Parents exercising their absolute power over their children's individual choices

- Forced marriages and career choices

4.2. Teachers wielding unchecked authority over students, leading to harassment and exploitation

- Harassment of female students for grades

5. Literary Perspective: How absolute power corrupts absolutely

5.1. Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'

5.2. George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'

6. Psychological Perspective: How absolute power corrupts absolutely

6.1. 'The Lucifer Effect'
by Philip Zimbardo

7. Conclusion