

ENGLISH ESSAY

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EAGLES FLY AGAINST THE WIND

OUTLINE

1) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: People who are bold and fearless like an eagle fight against all odds in the pursuit of higher goals.

2) Fortune favors the brave.

3) Symbolism in the Statement:

a) The challenging nature of human life.

b) An eagle's attitude towards life.

c) A coward's approach to the problems in life.

d) " 'Tis better to have loved and lost."

4) Bold and fearless people are the catalysts of progress and change:

a) Pushing the limitations of human potential.

b) Doing the impossible.

c) Crafting your own destiny.

d) Finding hope and optimism in the dark.

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e) Leading with example.

5) The example of great people in history:

a) Abdul Sattar Edhi: the problem solving mind

b) Conqueror of Constantinople: breaking the formidable walls

c) Stephen Hawking: standing against all odds.

6) From the perspective of Pakistan:

a) The genius of Jinnah

b) Moving ahead of our times

7) Conclusion

the day seem bright

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People who are bold and fearless like an eagle fight against all odds in the pursuit of higher goals. Such people do not limit their passion and ambition to the boundaries of time. There is a famous story written in Aesop's Fables: The story of two mice. It is said that once there were two mice who accidentally fell in the bucket of cream. Finding the cream impossible to survive, one of the mice gave up and drowned. The other was not able to give up so easily, and started flapping his hand and feet hard. He struggled so much that he turned the cream into butter and jumped out. What differentiated one mouse from the other was the attitude towards the problem. Both had similar abilities and both were faced by an impossible scenario. However, one of them survived and the other died. Similarly, people who are courageous do not accept defeat in the face of challenges. Rather, the challenges make them only try harder. Their destiny lies with them and they forge it

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out of sheer willpower. This can be observed in the attitudes of great people in history who stood against all odds.

"Fortune favours the brave" is a famous proverb that is often quoted to describe the significance of a brave and bold outlook towards life. People who are willing to risk their most precious belongings in the pursuit of a goal, are the ones who are blessed with the most extraordinary successes. This is what Tariq bin Ziyad did when he ordered his soldiers to burn the ships at the Strait of Gibraltar. He was sent by the Umayyad Caliph on the conquest of Spain. By burning the ships, he destroyed all chances of turning back from the battlefield. It was a "fight or die" situation and he accepted nothing less than success. The history is witness that his bravery was rewarded by the success in the battlefield and he became the symbol of courage for aspiring generals ever since.

the difficulties: the major ones are

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The statement "Eagles fly against the winds" sheds light on the nature of human life. Human life is often quoted as being synonymous with suffering or pain. Some religions like Buddhism and Hinduism literally call life a suffering. In such situation, there are two attitudes towards life: to live and fight or to die and end this suffering. As William Shakespeare wrote these immortal lines in Hamlet: **"TO BE OR NOT TO BE; THAT IS THE QUESTION."** It shows the dilemma faced by humans in choosing either the nihilistic path or the optimistic path towards life. Choosing the latter is the nature of an eagle.

In this statement, Eagle stands for a bold and courageous outlook on life. Eagle is a ^{bird} who is admired for his strength and resilience by the artists. This reference is often found in the poetry of the National Poet of Pakistan, Allama Iqbal. He once wrote:

اَلَا نَسْأَلُ بِمَنْ يَسْتُرُ الْبُرْجَانِ فِي الْجَنَانِ

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"You are an eagle; You must
live like an eagle in the
mountains."

For Iqbal, people should aspire to be like an eagle and shun the life of comfort. This rightful place lies in the difficulties. This is how Iqbal explains the phrase "fly against the winds."

Unlike this bold attitude, a coward is someone who is too afraid to live. Where a bold person fights against all odds; a coward is paralysed by the fear of failure. To him, life is gloomy and tottering. He is unable to realise that life is neither inherently good nor naturally bad. Rather, it is what the man makes it out to be. In the "Tale of Two Cities", Charles Dickens very beautifully explains this:

It was the best of the times;
It was the worst of the times.
It was the age of wisdom;
It was the age of foolishness.
It was the spring of hope;
It was the winter of despair.

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For a person who is willing to fight, life is an open opportunity. For someone who finds excuses to give up, life offers nothing but despair.

One of the most discouraging aspects of human life is failure. Even after struggling for so long, when the people face defeat, this is when they feel at their lowest. Failure disturbs our beliefs and ideals. However, for a bold person, failure is not an end, it is a learning opportunity. As ~~Confucius~~ Confucius, the famous Chinese philosopher, once wrote: "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up everytime we fall." This courageous attitude is also reflected in these lines by Alfred Tennyson:

It's better to have loved and lost;
Than never to have loved at all.

Such a bold attitude acts as the catalyst of progress and change. These are the people who led the way for the mankind to follow. In the 13th century, the Florence Cathedral was built in Italy. There was to be a dome

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on the top of the cathedral. It was not just any dome, but the largest dome ever built in the world. To accomplish such a task, such technology and knowledge was needed which was not present. It took another 200 years, when in the 15th century Filippo Brunelleschi was born who changed the face of modern architecture and inspired new forms of construction. He built the Dome of Santa Maria on the Florence cathedral and pushed the boundaries of established practices.

Most of the people go with the flow and fly with the wind. They take conventional paths in life as their imagination is limited in the consciousness of this times. Very few people are bold enough to claim the paths that are deemed impossible or impractical by their generations. This sentiment was expressed by Robert Frost when he wrote:

“Two roads diverged in the woods;
I took the road less travelled by.”
Instead of conforming to the general sentiments, they challenge them and take the future in their own hands.

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The bold and brave people do not believe in the passive acceptance of fate. For them determinism is the pit philosophy of the weak and the coward. They have faith in their own effort and individual potential. One such mind was Leonardo da Vinci, the archetypal Renaissance man. He once wrote: "The people of achievement do not sit back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things." Another such mindset is also found in the writings of William Shakespeare, who wrote: "It is not in the stars to hold our destiny, but in ourselves."

These people are masters of the optimistic calling. They find hope and strength where no ordinary man can even survive. To them the darkness and the shadows only glorify their endeavours and increase the worth of the accomplishments. As Charles Dickens wrote: "There are dark shadows on earth, but its lights shine brighter in the contrast." This is how they see the difficulties: the nights which make the day seem brighter.

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A person with an eagle mindset do not wait for someone else to solve the problems, they lead by example. In the year of 624 AD, Quraysh of Makkah attacked Madina with an army of a thousand soldiers. On the other hand, the nascent state of Madina could only mobilise 3000 men for the battle. Without the manpower, the technical training and the finances, Madina won the Battle of Badr. This was made possible by the leadership of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Lion of Allah, Hazrat Ali (RA) once recalled: "Prophet (PBUH) was the one who would stand in the front even in the situations which would make an hearts tremble. When we were afraid, we used to take shelter behind him". This is how he inspired 300 men to overpower 1000.

In history, we find many examples where some bold minds were the ones who pioneered the fields of progress and development. One such example was that of Abdul Qattar Edhi. Most minds only see the problems, while very few are able to find innovative means

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to solve them. Edhi was one of the latter categories. When he noticed the problem of health infrastructure and emergency services in Pakistan, he mobilised resources to fight the problem. Not only did he become a successful case study for Pakistan, but also for the whole world. He created the largest ambulance network in the world which provides free services to everyone alike. He is remembered as the great philanthropist of Pakistan who saved many lives.

One such man was Sultan Mehmet II who succeeded in doing what no one thought was possible. In **1453**, he decided to attack Constantinople which was under Christian control. Many Muslim warriors in the past tried to capture it. There were 23 attempts made but none succeeded. The walls of the city were the most formidable in the world which stood for 1000 years and protected the city against foreign attackers. Sultan Mehmet II pushed the boundaries of technology and built the biggest

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common in the world to tear down the walls. He succeeded against all odds and proved to the world that nothing is impossible in the face of human willpower and determination.

In our contemporary world, there is one person who always comes to mind when one thinks of a strong mindset. He was the physics genius: Stephen Hawking. He was diagnosed with a motor-neuron disease which means that his body was gradually disintegrating and he will die sooner than other people. Instead of giving up, he persisted in the face of debilitating physical health. Even when he was limited to a wheel-chair and was unable to speak, he would make humorous remarks to lighten the seriousness. He is remembered not only for his intellectual genius, but also for his passion and optimism towards life.

In the perspective of Pakistan, we see many extraordinary examples in the history as well as the

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contemporary world. Even the creation of Pakistan was one of the most miraculous undertakings of modern times. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah practically proved this proverb: "Pen is mightier than the sword." Without any external help or military support, he fought legally the case of Pakistan against the majority Hindus and the powerful British empire. The independence of Pakistan in 1947 was the classic example of a nation fearlessly fighting for its future.

In line with this spirit, Pakistan must outline its future with the same passion and fearlessness. The future belongs to the people who think ahead of their times. "The youth bulge of Pakistan is more rich than the BRICS nations" (Christophe Joffe) and investment in this opportunity can bring the country among the developed nations of the world. Research and Development must be prioritised if the country wants to look ahead into the future. With a futuristic mindset, will the nation achieve what **EDUARDO**

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GALEANO imagined in "Children of the day":

"May Tomorrow be more than just another name for today."

A fearless and bold attitude towards life is what distinguishes a failure from success. Instead of repenting for the cards dealt by the universe, a person must face his fears and craft his own destiny. This is the spirit of all great men in history of the world who achieved what was deemed impossible. When a person acquires that mindset, nothing can stand in his way. He is the one in charge of his life as he crosses into the world of unknown. This is when nature favors the man and opens to doors of blessings. As **IQBAL** once wrote that when man becomes fearless, this is what happens:

عِزِّ خُدا بِنَدَبِ سَهْمِ تُوْدِ لَوْحِ بَتَا بَتْرِي دَفْنَا بَابِ

"Allah will himself ask man to tell what he wishes to achieve."