

Name: Zarafshan Zahir

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FRAILTY, THY NAME IS WOMAN

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THE ESSAY

The statement 'Frailty, Thy Name is Woman' is taken from William Shakespeare's famous tragedy 'Hamlet'. This line occurs in Act I, Scene II of the play. Hamlet, in his first soliloquy, says this line about his mother. The statement means that weakness and frailty is associated with the female sex. Women are considered weak and fragile from the very start. The roles given to them are magic and mundane. Based on these concepts,

women is considered as the fragile and delicate gender. Women of olden times were limited to homes. Household chores, raising children, nurturing the young ones are considered the responsibility of women. While men associate themselves with rather tough jobs such as hunting and working outside the homes to earn and provide for the womanfolk. However, women of the modern times have proved Shakespeare's famous and most-quoted statement wrong. Women have now taken the roles which were previously associated with men. Women have mastered these roles and busted the myth that women are weak.

Questions arise that- what made Shakespeare to write such a statement- and why did it gain so much hype that became one of the most-quoted lines of the playwright. The physical anatomy of woman is not as strong as that of a man. She is considered fragile and weak. She is given gender roles that are linked with rearing and raising. Women are not seen as rationally sound gender as well. So, she is seen weak both physically and mentally.

Patriarchal system prevails in almost all the societies and these societies prefer male dominance. Women have felt oppressed under the dominance of

men. They are considered the other gender and given the roles that do not require any mental activity. This translates to women being seen as weak and frail beings.

Along with these, women represent a very small percentage in politics. Small portion of women are politically active. The world leaders and renowned politicians are men. Seeing such a small number of women in administrative sector, gives the message that women are weak, who cannot handle such great and important positions.

However, today's women have busted this myth of weakness, fragility, frailty being associated with them. Women have proved themselves that they can perform activities beyond nurturing and raising the young ones. Today, women are the CEOs, the heads of the states and governments. They have taken part in sports and showed the world that they are not weak anymore.

The world has seen many women in politics. They stand side by side to men and even compete with them in elections. The ~~2016~~ 2017 US elections saw a strong female opponent to a prominent male presidential candidate. In the same way, the elections taking place in November

2024 are seeing another strong female presidential candidate, competing elections against Donald Trump. In Pakistan, right from the start, Fatima Jinnah played a crucial role in the political movement and fought for a separate homeland from the frontline. Benazir Bhutto, too, led the political party after her father's death. She was a strong woman who was politically active throughout her life. In the present age, Maryam Nawaz is one of the prominent names in Pakistani politics. She is serving as the first female chief minister of Punjab. Women have proved themselves in political arena which is predominantly considered a male dominant sector.

Women have enjoyed the administrative positions as well. Back then, these positions were only filled by men. Women have proved themselves capable enough to take such important sectors where every decision taken is weighed rationally. New Zealand's prime minister Jacinda Ardern is an example of women doing justice to their administrative roles. Similarly, Benazir Bhutto served as the prime minister of Pakistan for two terms. Maryam Nawaz is serving as the first female chief minister of Punjab. These all are evidences that women are not fail.

Renowned female writers have made a significant place in the world of literature. Famous female writers include J. K. Rowling, Helen Keller, Jane Austen, Parveen Shakir, Maya Angelou, Sylvia Plath, Virginia Woolf and many more. They have produced such masterpieces that challenge the authenticity of Shakespeare's statement.

In the field of science and technology, women cannot be ignored. The Nobel laureate Marie Curie is an eye-opening name for those who believe women are for the mundane jobs. She discovered radium and polonium, which are now used in the treatment of cancer patients.

Sports grounds seem incomplete without women. Women have made their name in sports as well. Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova are two renowned names when tennis is mentioned. In the same way, Sania Mirza is also a well-celebrated personality in sports. Women have proved that not only mentally but physically they are strong as well.

Women stand on guard as well by taking part in the Armed Forces. The first Lt. General (female) of Pakistan is the renowned Nigar Gohar. Her

contributions led her to receive a Jamgha-i-Imtiyaz (TI). She stands as an inspiration to many young women who would wish to serve their country as a member of the Armed Forces.

In a nutshell, women have proven that they are no longer weak and fragile. Through the numerous examples of women seen in the places where men were usually seen proved the ambiguity of Shakespeare's renowned "Frailty, Thy Name is Woman." Women are seen as successful politicians such as Hillary Clinton, Kamala Harris, Fatima Jinnah, Indira Gandhi and to name a few. In the similar way women have proved themselves capable of administrative positions as head of states and company CEOs. Sports sector have also seen many women bringing fame to their countries. All this leads to the busting of the misconception that women are weak and fragile.