

A Ship is Safe in a Harbour, but That is Not  
Outline: What Ships are Built for.

### 1- Introductory Remarks:

Without adversities, a man is at ease,  
but it is not what he is made for.

### 2- Decoding the meaning of statement

- o → Ships are built for transportation purposes.
- o → They are bound to come across stormy winds, dark nights and unfavorable circumstances while they set out voyage in seas.

### 3- Arguments substantiating the viewpoint:

i) Great men may give up on their problems, but their greatness does not allow them to do so.  
o → Muhammad PBUH could have an easy life but it was not what he was created for.

ii) Good leaders may quit their struggle but it is not what they are supposed to do.  
o → It was easier for Alexander the great, Mehmud II, and the great Akbar to have a luxurious life yet they chose a difficult one.

iii) Flying low is an easy option for eagles, but they are not meant for it.

o → Nelson Mandela would have escaped from jail easily but he knew, his aim was bigger.

iv) Lions, like other animals, could have long periods of respite, but they cannot afford it.

o → It was an easy choice for Abraham Lincoln to quit an education due to his poverty, but he did otherwise.

v) A strong man is safe in comfort zone but it is not expected from him.  
o → Mehmud Ghaznavi could have discarded his efforts, but it was not what his personality was meant for.

vi) A ship is safe in harbour but rusting and stagnation also become the fate of the ship.  
o → Downfall of the 'Nokia' company is a glaring evidence.

vii) Assessment of the effectiveness <sup>of ships</sup> cannot be done without ~~have~~ sailing them in difficult times

o → Case-in-point: Leonardo da Vinci, and J.K Rowling

viii) Self-actualization and true potential can only be attained while one decides to fight against one's unfavouring circumstances.

o → Despite losing his right hand, Karoly Takas won the Olympics 1948.

ix) The life of a man is a long march through the night, he cannot have the day throughout his life.

Case-study: Cristiano Ronaldo, Abdul Sattar Edhi, William Shakespeare, and Stephen Hawking.

## 4 - Concluding Remarks

A ship is bound to confront unfavouring circumstances of the seas as it is not created to keep staying in a harbour.

## A Ship is Safe in a Harbour, but That is not What Ships are Built for.

We are not here to dream big, to drift  
We have hard work to do, loads to lift  
Shun not struggle, let it be, it's God's gift.

(W. H. Babcock)

The above-stated words of W. H. Babcock, an American poet and author, clearly validate that life is not about having rest and enjoying comfort. Rather, it is all ~~series~~ about struggle and efforts. To say the same in a more interesting manner, a ship is safe in a harbour, but that is not what ships are built for. Certainly, a ship is at ease when it is in harbour as <sup>the ship</sup> neither <sup>comes across the</sup> stormy winds nor <sup>the</sup> dark nights of <sup>the</sup> seas. However, it is not the motive behind its making. Ships are bound to be built for transportation purposes. To meet the objective, they are bound to confront unfavorable circumstances of the seas. Without facing tough waves and extreme weather conditions, the effectiveness of ships remains dubious and doubtful. In other words, great men may give up on their problems but that is not allowed to them. Good leaders can quit their struggle easily but it is not what they are supposed to do. For instance, Muhammad PBUH was having an easy choice to live a lavish life, but it was not what he meant for. Alexander the Great could have stayed in Macedonia but the purpose of his life did not permit him to do so. Akbar like

other ~~kings~~ rulers in the Mughal Empire, and Mehemud II in Ottoman empire could have lived in comfort zones but that was not what they were expected to. The veracity of the viewpoint can also be substantiated by looking into the life of Mehmud Ghasnavi, Leonardo da Vinci, Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela. All these names and examples evidently justify that flying low is an easy choice for eagles but that is not what the eagles are meant for. In short, it is pertinent to say that a ship is safe in harbour, but that is not what ships are built for.

Before moving ahead, it is necessary to understand the literal and contextual meaning of the given statement. Harbour is the place of resting for ships. After having long journeys and voyages, ships are stayed in harbour. It is a place where a ship is safe. At this place, ships neither face stormy winds nor they lose their equilibrium due to fluctuating waves. In short, ships are free from all worries. Nevertheless, the point to notice is, ~~that~~ it is not what they are built for. Ships are designed for transportation purposes. In modern world, they are also made for naval purposes. Thus, to meet their objectives and milestones, ships are bound to get into deep waters away from the shores.

Certainly, when they leave the shores, they are continued to have stormy winds and ~~obstructing~~ dangerous waves at seas, obstructing their path. In other words, ships are built for transportation functions and naval purposes, and to fulfill these objectives they have to leave their safe-heavens—the harbours.

The viewpoint implies that great men may give up on their problems, but it is not what they are expected to do. History is replete with examples justifying the situations when great men had easy options. The options which were <sup>neither</sup> ~~neither~~ life threatening <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>not</sup> challenging. To validate, the life of Prophet Muhammad PBUH is a great example. The holy prophet PBUH was offered with all options. His opponents offered him power, wealth, and women, but the man rejected all of them. He was clear in his goals and objectives of life. Though he could have an easy and luxurious life while accepting the offers of non-believers, he chose a difficult road <sup>to tread upon</sup> which he meant for. He challenged the ills of his time. He sacrificed his comfort and leisure, and took the pain. He knew that only through struggling against his rivals and <sup>their</sup> corrupt practices, he could bring peace. He did not bow down in front of his troubles. Tolerance

and fortitude in the face of problems remained his major arsenal. Subsequently, his sacrifice turned into the creation of the welfare state of Madinah. From the example, it is clear that a ship is safe in harbour but that is not what ships are built for.

Another way of explaining the viewpoint is that good leaders may opt an easy and luxurious life-style, but it goes against their leadership qualities. The truthfulness of the words can be assessed by quoting the names such as Alexander the Great, the great Pharaoh, and Nebuchadnezzar II in the Ottoman Empire. Just take out the example of Alexander. The guy could have stayed in Macedonia. Like early rulers, Alexander, too, had an option of spending a life of comfort and peace. A life which ~~was~~ did not seek any strenuous and relentless struggles. However, it was the wisdom of Alexander which helped him in realizing that he is meant for the expansion of the Persian Empire. The young boy, to fulfill his dream and vision, travelled from ~~Persia~~ Macedonia to other places, and conquered them. ~~He~~ He not only conquered but also contributed to the prosperity of those regions, and became the great Alexander. All this was not an outcome of a coincident, but of a consequence of his unwavering dedication and resilience in

front of troubles. Most importantly, all it happened when he left the harbours — Macedonia. Hence, it is clear from the instance that a ship is safe in harbours, but that is not what ship are made for.

To add <sup>to the arguments</sup> more, flying low is an easy option for an eagle, but that is not what eagles are supposed to do. Eagles are one of the most precious species of birds. What makes them valuable is their urge to fly higher against the winds. They have an easy choice of staying safe in mountains but they know that they are created to ~~perform~~<sup>take</sup> extraordinary flights.

They are aware of the fact that troubles are there only to make their wings stronger and harder. To rest the world of humans the words can be validated in the life of Nelson Mandela. The man is famous for his relentless and unwavering faith and devotion against his problems which he faced while fighting against the apartheid. His opponents told him to stay quiet. They threatened him that he would be jailed but the guy did not care as he was mindful that he was bound to face difficulties. He had an easy option of quitting his struggle but he took the pain of jail. He remained in jail for 27 years, which eventually caused the end of the

apathetic. The reason behind staying preferring <sup>no knew that</sup> sail to  
quitting struggle was simple and candid <sup>no knew that</sup> <sup>va ship</sup>  
is safe in harbours, but that is not what  
ships are designed for.

The same can also be substantiated with  
the fact that lions, like other animals, could  
have long periods of respite and rest, but it  
is not what they can afford. Lions are known as  
the kings of jungle. They can have an easy living.  
Like other animals, they, too, can live on grass,  
which is easier and demands no extra efforts.

Nevertheless, lions go for the other tough and diffi-  
cult options. They wander here and there to  
hunt. They fail many times but they never  
quit their struggle. They sacrifice their comfort.

They leave their harbours — caves — and continue  
to come across the adversities of thick forests. The  
away of these words can be seen in the  
personality of Abraham Lincoln — the 16th  
president of the United States of America.

He was born in a poor family, due to  
which getting formal education was possible by  
no means. It was quite easy for Lincoln to  
condemn his fate and family. Rather, than doing —  
criticising and blaming his fate and family, he  
guy found new paths of learning. He knew that



to stay home was an easy choice but it was not what he made for. ~~tea~~ Finally leaving his harbors of poverty and fate <sup>behind,</sup> Lincoln struggled against the stormy winds of his life and became the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the United States of America. The purpose he meant for.

If one further delves into the debate, one finds that a man is safe in comfort zone, but it is not what life expects from him. Life is a series of ups and downs. The vicissitudes of life demand relentless and wending efforts from men. ~~See~~ In other words, success is the name of hard-work and continuous struggle. Greatness comes when one decides to leave ~~his~~ one's comfort. Happiness is the consequence of sacrificing ~~one's~~ unnecessary desires and bearing the difficulties of the seas of life. The words can be substantiated through looking into the life of Mehmed Ghoznavi. The guy faced multiple failures before achieving victory. He attacked 16 times on Samrat Temples but every time failed severely. ~~The~~ The option of quitting was always available for him. It was easier for him to end his struggle but the man did not do that. The man preferred to

leave his harbour — comfort — after every failure he faced in stormy winds of his life. He came back again. Subsequently, in his 17<sup>th</sup> attempt, he became the victor. The conqueror was the result of his decision to leave harbour and face troubles. In short, a ship is safe in harbour, but it is not what ships are made for.

Another way of justifying the viewpoint is that the assessment of ships effectiveness cannot be done without sailing them into deep waters. The waters where unfavorable circumstances remain common, and fluctuation of waves is prevalent everywhere. Similar is the case with the life of human-beings. They are unable to assess their true effectiveness unless they face troubles. J. K. Rowling is a glowing example. The lady before becoming a globally renowned author faced a lot of troubles. No one was willing to publish her works. The lady rather than going back to the harbour continued to show resilience in the face of her problems. Eventually, the day came when her famous 'Harry Potter' series published and got fame all over the world. Similar is

the story of Leonardo da Vinci. The guy  
came across many adversities and mistreatment.  
The option of quitting struggle and staying in  
comfort zone was easier for him but the  
man was mindful that he was not meant  
for comfort. Thereby, he challenged the difficulties  
of life and finally painted the Mona Lisa,  
celebrated paintings. Hence, it is clear  
that a ship is safe in harbour but  
that is not what ships are made  
for.

To recapitulate and give the finishing touch to the debate, it is germane to assert that a ship is safe in harbours, but that is not what ships are made for. Simply, the main objective of ships is to fulfill <sup>various</sup> transportation purposes, and to meet this goal, they are bound to leave harbours — a safe heaven for ships. Consequently, when they ~~would~~ <sup>will</sup> enter <sup>the</sup> deep waters of seas they come across stormy winds, fluctuating waves, and extreme weather conditions of the seas, which they are meant to face. In other words, great men may live a life of ease and comfort, eagles may stay <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ mountains without having higher flights, and lions may rest in their caves, but that is not what they are ~~meant~~ <sup>created</sup> for. The veracity of words can be substantiated in the life of Prophet Muhammad ~~Peace~~ Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, and Mehmud Ghalzani. All these men could spend an easy life. They, like many others, could have given up on their struggle against the idle of their times, but that was not what they were supposed to do. In short, from the given arguments, it is evident that a ship is safe in harbours, but that is not what ships are made for. To conclude the same and leave an end note.

nothing seems more appealing than two words of Thomas Jefferson, the 3<sup>rd</sup> president of U.S.:

“ A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor; a good sailor always knows that the real test of a ship starts after leaving the harbour. ”