

Bravery in the Time of Crisis: How Courageous Actions Shape Global Respect

Outline

1) The people who stay courageous, instead of panicking, in times of crisis possess true qualities of heroism and are certainly acclaimed by the world.

2) Historical figures who became national and International Heroes

a) Prophet Muhammad SAW who rose Arabs from pits of ignorance to the light of Islam

b) Muhammad Ali Jinnah who fought for establishing separate state for Muslims

c) Dr Ruth Pfau dedicated her life for treating leprosy in Pakistan

e) Nelson Mandela fought against Apartheid in South Africa

f) Martin Luther King fought for rights of Black Americans

3) Contemporary figures who gained global respect

a) Abdul Sattar Edhi single handedly built largest ambulance service in South Asia

b) Malala Yousafzai stood up against Taliban for the right of Education of Girls

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- c) Grameen Bank by Bengali philanthropist provides interest free loans to poor
- d) Palestinians fighting bravely against atrocities of Israel
- e) South Africa took the case of Israeli Genocide on Palestine to United Nations Security Council
- f) Students of Bangladesh ousted their Dictator

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In times of crisis, a normal person panics and becomes greedy. His vision becomes myopic and he only focuses on himself and his family. As a result, his actions become selfish and he is prone to take the easy and common way out. At such a time, it takes a great man to think for the greater good and an even greater person to do something about it. These heroic personalities take the courageous and less trodden path that leads them to success. This world is full of problems and countless people want change but only a few have the courage and will to ~~start~~ bring the change. In times of adversity, taking the common path solves the problem temporarily. For a long-term solution, one has to look for other ways. Although these paths are laden with perils at every corner, but if a person braves through them, he saves a large number of people from crisis and becomes their hero. The people, who otherwise do not have courage to deal with their problems, find a ray of hope in those brave souls.

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History is rich with examples of heroes who braved the storms with great courage and pulled people from the shackles of adversity to the lands of tranquility and happiness. Before the advent of Islam, Arabs were living in the age of darkness. People had no rights. Women were treated as property and female infanticide was a common practice. Arabs were so proud of their memories that they considered writing a derogatory practice. Hence, there were little to no books. When Holy Prophet SAW was bestowed with prophethood, only a few people believed him while others treated him with great disrespect and made his life so miserable in his own city of Makkah that he finally had to migrate to Madinah. Despite all these hardships, he remained steadfast without losing hope. Through consistent effort and courageous actions, he became successful in spreading the message of Islam to the people Arabia. Today, he is counted among the most influential people in the world. His message of Islam has now spread through every corner of Earth. Islam is now considered the fastest growing religion.

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If we look at the history of Pakistan and its creation, we will find examples of multiple personalities whose courageous actions returned the idea of separate state into a reality. The most prominent among those is Muhammad Ali Jinnah who earned the title of Quaid-e-Azam and is considered the founder of Pakistan. He fought relentlessly for the rights of Muslims in sub-continent. Initially, he was a great advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity. But after seeing the atrocities of Hindus on Muslims, he changed his mind and joined All India Muslim League. Then he dedicated his life working for the creation of a separate state for Muslims. Despite numerous setbacks, he remained steadfast. Ultimately, he was able to convince the British, who normally treated Indians as animals, that partition of sub-continent was inevitable. Thanks to his courageous actions, today we live in a free country.

There are numerous foreigners who worked for Pakistan and became our heroes. One of these is a great doctor, Dr. Ruth Pfau who

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hailed from Germany and came to Pakistan in 1960s to help Pakistanis fight against a deadly and infectious skin disease, leprosy. Before her arrival to Pakistan, the patients of leprosy were treated inhumanely. Due to the contagious nature of the disease, the patients were isolated from rest of the population and were thrown into camps. Nobody liked to approach them even for providing them with food. They were left there alone to die. Dr Ruth Pfau then emigrated from Germany and spend the rest of her life treating the disowned patients of leprosy. She never cared about contracting the disease. For her, humanity came first. Today she is considered a national hero and she is an inspiration for many people.

Another inspiring personality who fought for the greater good is Nelson Mandela. Nelson Mandela was born in South Africa and later on became their first black President. He was born in apartheid era in which racism was a common practice. Whites were considered the elite class while the Blacks

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were treated inhumanly. They were the victims of every crime imaginable and there was no justice for them. The Blacks had accepted their fate. They had no courage to speak for themselves. Nelson Mandela became the first person to who decided to put an end to this. He was the beacon of light that ~~was~~ convinced people that their ~~lives~~ lives could be different. He protested against the injustice to Blacks. The Whites treated him poorly and he was sent to jail multiple times but he did not lose hope. Ultimately he was successful in putting an end to apartheid regime in South Africa. He became a hero for Blacks in South Africa and an inspiration for the world.

Another admirable personality that deserves a mention here is Martin Luther King Jr. He fought for the rights of African Americans which ultimately ~~led~~ led to Civil Rights Movement in America. African Americans was treated like slaves. The best example of the inhuman treatment towards them is the "Green Card" that was issued to

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every African American tourist. It consisted of list of restaurants and hotels in which they could eat and stay. They were not even allowed to use the same washroom as whites. In those times, the courageous Martin Luther King Jr, who himself was an African American, stood for the rights of Blacks. He is known for his revolutionary and thought provoking speeches. One of his most famous speeches is "I have a Dream" in which he imagines a world where every human is treated equally irrespective of caste, color or creed. Through his courageous efforts, he was able to turn this dystopian world into a reality. Today the Blacks in America, despite some segregation that still exists, enjoy rights that never could have imagined before.

In the contemporary world, we can still find examples of amazing people who transformed many lives and became inspiration for millions. If we look in our own country, Pakistan, we will find numerous such personalities.

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The most noteworthy among those is Adul Sattar Edhi. He hailed from a very humble background but he was a man of big heart. He dedicated his life for humanity and established the largest ambulance service in South Asia. He rescued the sick left to die. He sometimes even had to rescue and bury the abandoned bleated bodies. His selfless acts are true examples of heroism. Despite the fact that he has departed this world, he still lives in the hearts of millions. Today, the Edhi Foundation is the biggest non-profit organization in Pakistan working round the clock to help those in need.

About a decade ago, Taliban took control of the beautiful Swat valley of Pakistan. They imposed their extremist rules there and confined women to homes. The girls were not allowed to study and their schools were destroyed. Anybody who broke the ridiculous extremist rules by Taliban, was treated with brute force and in some cases, they were killed. At in those dark times, a

little girl named Malala Yousafzai refused to give up. She spoke against the violence. She stood up for the fundamental right for education for girls. Unfortunately, she was shot by the Taliban and she remained hospitalized for several months. She was taken to England for further treatment where she recovered and went on to become human rights Activist. Today, she is among the two Pakistanis who won the Nobel Prize. She is truly an inspiration for girls around the globe.

Another great person whose courageous actions have changed the lives of millions, is a philanthropist from Bangladesh who is the founder of Grameen Bank.

The times in which banks offer interest based loans and only to those who ~~do not~~ really need loans, he made a bank that gave interest free loans to the poor. In this way, various penniless people were able to start their businesses and transform their lives.

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Another event that took place in Bangladesh that deserves a

Now if we look at Middle East, we will find millions of Palestinians fighting bravely against the Israel. Even though it is like fighting a gun fight with a knife, they are not giving up. A stone thrown by a Palestinian is worth more than the entire arsenal of Israel. Palestinians of all ages, from a small child to an adult, stand with great courage and bravery against the atrocities of Israel and they refuse to give up. As a result of these courageous actions, they have gained respect universally while Israel is becoming isolated day by day.

When the world was silent for the fear of sanctions, South Africa stood up and spoke against the genocide of Israel and took the case to United Nations Security Council. Due to their brave actions, today many countries have gained the courage to speak against Israel and America. Many countries have now condemned the actions of Israeli forces on innocent Palestinians.

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Another recent example that deserves a mention is that of the students protests that took place in Bangladesh against their dictator, Huseyn Shah. Though the government reacted viciously and violently, the students remained steadfast. Many students lost their lives but the protestors refused to give up. Ultimately, the students became successful in ousting the dictator and Huseyn Shah had to flee to India for refuge.

All these examples depict that it takes courage and bravery to pull people from pits of crisis to better lives. Only those who possess such qualities are remembered in good words and their names are written in golden letters in history. Therefore, bravery is the only thing that matters in times of adversity because in those times, it takes a great person to take courageous steps towards greater good.