

# Bravery in the times of Crisis: How courageous Actions shape Global Respect

## Outline

### 1) Introduction

**Thesis statement:** Life is an ordeal, a test, which aims at challenging people's potential by putting them through crisis. The very universe is the result of the Adam and Eve's saga in which they were resolutely put through the series of trial, with a promise that those who will bravely pass through the trial will bear a fruit and those who fail will suffer. This essence of Islamic mythology can be seen prominently in the world order when bravery in the hour of crisis crown one with respect, as an aftermath of their courageous conducts.

## Where Dreams Come True

### 2) Why is bravery important in the times of crisis?

- (i) It reflects one's courage and resilience. (Churchill vs Hitler)
- (ii) It is a positive outlook towards life and the thorns it throws. (Socrates case study)
- (iii) It mirrors the survival mindset of the one being tested. (Darwin's survival of the fittest)
- (iv) Bravery is the cornerstone in the attributes of a 'leader in gestation'. (Case study of freedom fighters in Bangladesh)



(v) Bravery in the times of crisis is a sign that the nation is alive. (Nelson Mandela - apartheid leader)

(vi) It is the right attitude for life.

3) How Courageous Actions shape global respect?

(i) World respect - those who can't be intimidated. <sup>Sun Tzu's book: The art of war</sup>

(ii) Because respect is earned the hard way.

(The US supremacy in the world)

(iii) Courage is - the second name of a leader and the leader is supposed to lead.

(iv) Courageous actions later or sooner end up making their names and earning respect (case study of prophet)

(v) In the dichotomy of leader and slave <sup>P.B.U.H</sup>, courage is the deal breaker which makes leaders and resultantly world bows in front of them.

4) The correlation between courageous actions and the global respect.

5) Case study of Pakistan's past versus present and how its decisions shaped the global respect or lost it.

(pre-partition versus post partition)

6) Conclusion



William Shakespeare the literary giant, in his twelfth night, very famously said "Some are born with greatness, some achieve it and some have greatness thrust upon them." Similar is the case with bravery. Some are born brave, some achieve <sup>bravery</sup> greatness through their respective choices and some have it thrust upon them, when they are put through a test and they choose to be brave. It's an attribute which decides that who is going to get respect and who will be deprived from it. This phenomenon has remained the same, since the times of antiquity till the contemporary age. The world is always segregated in two groups, one is the respected lot while the other one is the group deprived from it. From the grassroots level to the international dynamics, the leader and their power may vary but the reward of respect which they earn remains constant. Naturally a man find himself in this situation of making a choice between bravery and cowardice because universe exists with this sole purpose of testing the man and pushing his limits. How the individual reacts to the crisis is what makes the whole difference. Life is therefore an ordeal which primarily



aims at putting people through tests and trials. Just to differentiate between the ones who are brave and who are not. In Islamic mythology the saga of Adam and Eve has set the grounds for these crisis, with a purpose of testing and then bearing the fruit to it in the form of respect which the brave ones will earn. This essence of test and trial just to reach the ultimate goal can be seen rampantly in the world order too. As bravery amidst crisis shape the global respect.

One must ponder that why is bravery so important at the first place? The answer lies in the very nature of human society. Since the age of antiquity till the present age it has been a tussle for survival, which Darwin named as the "survival of the fittest". Back in the age of hunters and gatherers, human beings considered them at the top of food chain because they successfully passed through the test and trials, being an epitome of bravery. Unlike other creatures who could not prove themselves and went extinct. In the modern world too, only those are considered worthy of existence who show bravery.



The great wars are a living proof of that. Those who came at a underbolt only to leave mid way became a proof of how courage shapes global respect and not the contrary.

In the world war two, Hitler who was a dictator used the most violent rhetoric, provocative speeches to set a narrative that he is a 'God'. It can be seen in contrast to Churchill who was a democratic. He didn't use the aggressive designs of warfare like Hitler did because he remained poise and brave. His courage lies in the fact that even when united kingdom was crippled, he was firm and had the faith that they will win. He very courageously stated: "Failure isn't fatal and win isn't constant. It is the behavior that how you do it which counts." ultimately, he won and Hitler stumbling in those times of crisis, committed suicide.

Bravery is - therefore a positive outlook towards life. A brave man accepts the thorns which life throws at him being an epitome of resilience. Such brave men believe that the attitude towards life is what matters and hence every possible obstacle fails to make them





surrender. From Socrates who was executed in the charges of impiety and corrupting youth to Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who was detained and executed in 1979 in the case of an alleged murder. Even death could not scare these great giants - then what else could? Belonging to completely different epochs and domains of life it still mirrors a common ground between them and that is their sheer bravery which world saw and consequently blessed them with utmost respect. That they are loved and respected till date.

dark, who led. This leader is is brave under the become fighting elite them.

Another aspect of bravery being the only way of life which is right is the survival mode in which it takes birth. The ultimate goal of life is to survive. Be it a man or an animal, both are in an endless rut of proving to be the best of the best. Darwin has described this as the survival of the fittest, as the natural phenomenon, on the basis of which living beings either dominate or get extinct. The conduct of bravery suggests that the person is capable of being the fittest which make him superior among those who are not. The dinosaurs and mega fauna ~~do~~ could not pass through this trial and hence get extinct.

odds, made of the loss of



A leader is someone who leads the dark, who is superior from those who are being led. The defining attribute which makes one a leader is the characteristic of bravery. One who is brave and is capable of protecting the others under the shelter of his courage is the one who becomes a leader. Bangladesh has a history of fighting for a separate homeland because they felt like their identity was being taken away from them. What made them stand out in the eyes of the world was their courage to go against the odds, not once but twice. The Bengali students made the history second time in global domain by ousting out the authoritarian rule of Sheikh Hasina. They being the freedom fighters, fought on the behalf of everyone existing on that land because they were courageous, they were the leaders.

Bravery in murky times is also important because it is a sign that the nation is alive and not dead. Africa has always been a prey to ~~prejudices~~ the miscarriages of justice and prejudices. In the times of colonization, Africans were sold out to the colonies so they could be exploited in the name of "civilizing them". History saw them



being labeled as barbaric. Making an impression that the country is dead. But Nelson Mandela was born in that very land putting a full stop to that apartheid. His symbolic bravery is till date acknowledged for the attitude of reconciliation which he adopted. He spent 27 years in the prison, as a price which he paid for his bravery. He famously said: when I opened the door and moved towards the gate which would lead to my bravery, I knew if I wouldn't leave the hatred behind, I would still be a prisoner. His approach in those times is what made him the charismatic leader that he is today. His priority of opting for reconciliation over vengeance is what shaped the global respect towards him.

One must ponder that how does these actions of courage and bravery shape global respect and why? Its answer leads to the within. Humans are made this way that they respect those who can't be intimidated and disrespect those who are timid and weak. Iqbal, nevertheless, emphasized on recognizing the worth of thyself. He called out the youth as 'shahreen' and advised them to soar higher and higher while keeping the head up and chest out. This is the attitude which



opened the doors of freedom for the Muslims of subcontinent. It is a fact that respect is ~~never~~ the hard way in the world and it does not come easy. The prime example of it in the global market is United States, who proved its sovereignty over and over again in the great wars, in the cold war and subsequently in the war of terror too. The entire dollarization in the global economy during trade transits is a proof of it. They protect their hegemony and now single handedly look after the world order. Countries who try to abstain their hegemony face restrictions like Iran did, like Pakistan did and the list goes on.

Courageous conducts hence sooner or later convince the world to surrender and accept the sovereignty of the sovereign. The history of Pakistan encapsulates this essence, as Pakistan joined the US bloc soon after its inception and since then it is forced to accept whatever US demands by being an active ally of it. The similar pattern can be observed through the life of Holy prophet as well. The context surely vary, but the point in making remains the same. As, the kind of hostility he faced



from everyone around him was overshadowed by the courage his actions reflected everytime he was put ~~in~~ in a trial. His historic 'forgiveness' serves as the example behind why till date he is the most influential figure with Islam being the second most popular religion in the world. That historical forgiveness is when, while recapturing Mecca, he announced: "I forgive you all, you all are free" This is till date the most classical example of courage shaping the global respect, which he earned.

Therefore in the dichotomy of leader and those who are being ruled upon, the sole differentiating factor in the courage which one shows and makes the whole difference. This courage is what then paves his way towards 'respect' which is showered upon him either naturally or unwillingly. The relationship between courageous conducts and earning respect is therefore interdependent, both go hand in hand.

The case study of Pakistan is of boom and bust. Since its inception, in fact even before that when the state was in gestation period, it has been in a constant turbulence. His decisions



have been a roadshow of the respect and conversely its decisions of cowardice has been a reason of its unease. In the times of 'war of terror' Pakistan was not given a choice to pick a side and its cowardice attitude to resist the US pressure has put it through such crisis which are still surfacing in the face of terrorist groups. Former president put it like "I got a call from Washington and that came as a thunderbolt to me as I was told 'You are either with us or against us.'" And resultantly, Musharraf's government did not have the courage to go against the only power in global dynamics. This incident somewhere served as the seeds of Pakistan's constant dependence on us, which just kept on growing afterwards.

In summation, bravery is the only way to not only survive but thrive in life. It's not an easy way out, because it is always tested in the times of crisis, when one finds it hard for himself to choose the hard way but the right way; which is of bravery. It is the attribute which paves the ways of respect and honor from the world, as a fruit to those who choose to be brave when they are being tested. This universal





phenomenon has time and again proved the relationship of bravery and subsequent respect which comes handy.

A Chinese military strategist and analyst Sun Tzu in his seminal work "The Art of War" rightly encapsulates this essence of bravery as he posits:

"The victorious warrior wins first and then go to the battlefield, whereas the defeated warrior goes to the battlefield and then thinks of winning" He further added "The supreme form of war is where you subdue your enemy without the weapons"

and that is solely by opting for bravery.

---

*Where Dreams Come True*