

⇒ HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN

Outline:-

A. Introduction

B. Crowns are Heavy, whether seen or Not

- (i) Human being as the vicegerent of God
 - (ii) Monarchs behind the veil of power
 - (iii) Politicians and the responsibility of a nation
 - (iv) Policy makers and the burden of decision-making
 - (v) Civil servants and the reality behind the privilege
 - (vi) Armed forces at the frontlines of duty
 - (vii) Judiciary and the thin line between morality and power
 - (viii) Parents as the building blocks of a society
 - (ix) Teachers as the architects of tomorrow
 - (x) The double edged sword of social media
 - (xi) The deterioration of Mother Nature and man's role in it
 - (xii) Artists as the custodians of culture and history
- #### C. Conclusion

"With great power comes great responsibility."

This quote from the famous film Spiderman is a solemn reminder of the reality that contrary to popular belief, power does not merely serve to entitle one to authority, benefits, and privilege. It also acts as a restraining force - a liability that draws boundaries around a person, compels him to commit to the task undertaken, and also subjects him to the visible or invisible burdens of fulfilling the role that is uniquely chosen for him or by him. From religious to political and from institutional to socio-cultural and ethical, these burdens carried by those in positions of power are manifold. The line "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown", from the famous play Henry IV, Part 2 by the esteemed playwright William Shakespeare rings true across all aspects of life, reflecting upon the layered message that one aspect of power, no doubt, imparts immense influence to people but that very control also confines them whether it comes to decision making and actions, or bearing the brunt of the consequences, should anything

go wrong. This fact resonates with the world on individual, national, global, and social levels. The existence of human beings and their designation as rulers, leaders, decision-makers, and state institutions as well as social institutions all highlight this universal truth that no matter how well a duty is performed or even in the case of its negligence, the person who is bound to it cannot escape accountability, obligation and the psychological and emotional dilemmas associated with it.

The creation of mankind and his existence on Earth was referred to as the descent of vicegerent of God on Earth, by none other than Allah himself. He was delegated a huge responsibility to bear and to act as God's representative, despite all his flaws and errors. The fact that human being was 'the chosen one' over angels and all other creatures of Allah in itself provides the most privilege, power and supremacy over all other beings. However, it also puts immense pressure to conform to the teachings, values, and the onus in order to justify

ourselves as worthy of the prestige conferred upon us. How heavy this responsibility is has been encapsulated in the Verse no. 72 of the Holy Quran that states: "Indeed We offered the Trust to the Heavens and the Earth and the Mountains and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man [undertook to] bear it". This is an important reflection of both sides of the position enjoyed by the human being as a lieutenant of God.

The lives of the ones we deem to hold absolute power and sovereignty among us are characterized by limitations and restrictions that are carefully hidden in opulence, beauty, and high walls of castles and palaces. One recurring theme that is evident in the books of modern as well as classical era, and the visual portrayals of the noble houses of kings and emperors serves as an evidence by shedding light upon how trapped these people really are due to their inability to fully express themselves, think for themselves and choose for themselves. One of the most popular award-

mining shows of the modern television. The Crown is a historical account of the British Royal Family that offers a poignant reminder of the sadness, restrictions, and difficulties faced by men and women of the Royal Family alike, due to the very position that places them at the top of the hierarchy. From the sister of Queen Elizabeth, Princess Margaret to the incumbent monarch, King Charles, the royal lives have been deprived of personal freedom and matrimonial joy as a consequence of being associated with the Crown of England.

The politicians that hold the responsibility for the enormous amount of citizens also suffer from the very thing that elevates them: power. This authority that beholds them to making decisions for the future of a nation places a massive burden on their shoulders when it comes to that. One wrong move, one misstep can change the trajectory of a state and has far-reaching implications. This precise calculation of any action can have grave effects on the person who shoulders

this duty. During the **World War I**, Winston Churchill, the then Prime Minister of Britain found himself at the crossroads of making the right policy or taking the politically popular decision when the Germans had conquered France and held the operational control of the powerful and expensive French Fleet. He eventually chose to go down the first path and sunk the ~~Naval~~ fleet of Britain's ally, France so as to disable the German forces from using it against the Allied forces. Churchill referred to this as the 'worst best decision' that he had ever made, highlighting the pressure that comes with dominion.

The institutions and organizations sitting at the top level forums that hold the administrative powers regarding a particular state or area of a state find themselves in no different position than the ones who delegate this authority to them. In the event of any crisis or adversity, the blame lies with them whether rightfully or not. The **Floods of 2025 in Pakistan** are reminiscent of this. The media that

was produced in the aftermath of this recent disaster increasingly highlighted the failure of authorities, especially provincial governments for poor housing planning and their lack of efficiency in governing the illegal settlements of buildings, businesses and houses on the riverbanks - which was pointed out as the main cause of the widespread destruction ~~as~~ opposed to the record-high rainfalls as a result of climate change. This instance shows how the policy makers and the burden of decision-making acts as a huge weight on them and tests them.

The civil service and bureaucracy is seen as one of the most prestigious fields for people to join on national and international level. However, if the reality of the civil service is taken into account on a national level in Pakistan, it is evident that there is more to the picture that meets the eye. Most consider civil service as the epitome of power, wealth and concessions as well as privileges obtained by the government and

while that is true to a great extent,
an all-encompassing view of the truth should
not be neglected. The civil servants work
long hours at wages lower than they
arrant that justifies the level of
work that they perform. Often times,
their postings are allocated in far-flung
areas at great distances from their families
and the lifestyles they are used to, while
also often wrongfully being accused of
corruption or carrying out elitist practices and
wheeling out their own interests neglecting
the harsh reality and the psychological toll
it takes on them. Such realities are hidden
behind crisp suits, a lavish car, and enormous
houses but being hidden or less discussed
does not negate the facts.

One of the most monumental duties is
performed by the armed forces of a
nation. They give up the idea of a normal
life, a normal job, a normal family just
to secure the nation and lay down their
lives when required. Such a task comes
with severely harsh impacts on a person
that is supposed to protect the citizens

and borders of a nation, no matter what death, pain, suffering, and unpredictability can be witnessed everyday which puts ^{an} adverse physical, psychological, and emotional burden on the armed forces personnel. The book

Signature Wounds: The Untold Story of The Military's Mental Health Crisis by Darren Crosshaw presents a well-researched account of the mental traumas, stress and suicidal ideations faced by the veterans of the Global War on Terror of the 21st century. Thus, the weight carried by the people belonging to this venerated profession is heavier than one realizes.

The eminent individuals delegated with the authority to administer justice tread a very thin line between maintaining their moral values and moral responsibility and sustaining their power. It is indeed a delicate position to hold, balancing the scales of justice while ensuring the stability of power. In theory, law is impartial but sometimes, the judges are often faced with situations where legal decisions intersect with complex moral dilemmas.

For example in a historic case of **ROV**, **Dudley and Stephens (1804)**, the judiciary had to balance legal principles of murder with a moral dilemma: whether it was justifiable for the shipwrecked sailors to kill and eat a fellow survivor in order to survive. Eventually, the court ruled in the favour of the murdered survivor, iterating that necessity is no solid defense to ~~murder~~ kill a person even if it puts one's survival at stake. Such instances signify the burdens that befall those who wield authority while making an effort to maintain their integrity.

The family is the basic structural and functional unit of a society that ultimately acts as a decisive factor in shaping that society and by extension, the nation. The role of parents in determining the values, ethics, traditions, culture, and educating the children is monumental. This is why the quality of the human resource which is the biggest asset of a nation is dependent upon how well-performed the parental ^{دور} duties are, ranging

from inculcating basic manners and academic education and learning in the offspring to preparing them as human beings of good moral character and noble ambitions, the parents are the most significant institutions of the society. The religion ^{Islam} has elevated parents for this very duty that they perform as nation-builders and pillars of society. As stated rightfully by Rajeev Ranjan: "Wise parent develops his child as a sensible citizen who cares for self and society"

Incomplete - Time's up