

खण्ड-A / Section-A

- Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.
यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही देख रहे हैं।
- Q.2 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.
हम उस बच्चे को आसानी से क्षमा कर सकते हैं जो अंधेरे से डरता है; जीवन की वास्तविक त्रासदी तब होती है जब लोग रोशनी से डरते हैं।
- Q.3 It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.
बोलना ज्ञान का क्षेत्र है और श्रवण करना बुद्धि का विशेषाधिकार है।
- Q.4 Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you.
यह प्रश्न छोड़ दें कि कल क्या हो सकता है, और हर उस दिन को लाभ के रूप में गिनें जो भाग्य आपको अनुमति देता है।

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark ; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of light.

The period is of 1990's. A vital link of India, Jammu & Kashmir is boiling under the garb of terrorism and spread of jihadi ideology. A group of young men is gathered who are listening keenly to the speech given by a dreaded terrorist - turned - hero.

Our religion is in danger! Our God wants us to protect it from the clutches of other religion. Even our holy book calls us for sacrificing our lives to protect our faith.

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The people listening to him are like 'child' (lacks wisdom) ^{who} and are easily manipulated by the false fear of 'God's wants'. It is easy for us to forgive them because they were brainwashed and don't know the reality.

But what about that terrorist leader who knows it so well that no holy book gives sanction for terrorism. He is afraid of light (coming out of the truth) in front of masses as his authority will then decrease. This fear of light is the real life tragedy which has engulfed the peace & security of world as a whole.

This anecdote tells us how it is easy to forgive the child afraid of dark but how life becomes tragic when men are afraid of light. But ^{why is} it so easy to forgive a child and not men? why are men so afraid of light and how this becomes a tragedy? Further how can we transform from darkness to light? We will explore all these dimension through this essay.

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Before moving further, let us understand as to why a child is afraid of dark & why is it easy to forgive them.

CHILD: AFRAID OF DARK

A child is a synonym used for a person who posses no wisdom and knowledge to judge good or bad or right and wrong.

"No one does wrong knowingly."
- Socrates

Since a child does not know good or bad, that's why he's is afraid of darkness. It is the fear of evil that clogs his brain & shuts down the light of conscience.

The people in past were afraid of Britishers & they began to work for them in administration. They were like a child who cannot bear the brunt of British oppression & so gave up the fight against colonial rule.

Gandhiji easily forgived these people and used his influence to persuade them to take part in Non-cooperation movement. Hence the zamindars & middle man joined in.

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But it is not always the fear of consequences that makes a child afraid of dark. Sometimes, they are afraid not for themselves but for their families. People have responsibility towards their families and that's why don't want to take any action which might be disastrous for their loved ones.

It might include fear from whistle blowing or digging out the truth behind illegal mining activities; since it can have adverse consequences like Dr. Sa Satyendra Dubey had to sacrifice his life for the same.

Moreover, sometimes people might not even possess enough courage and dedication which makes them fearful of the dark. But in all cases it becomes easy to forgive them since their character can be moulded and virtues of fortitude & valour can be internalised in them.

The French Revolution was a result of fortitude of French people to speak up against monarchy. They were the same

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people, who were earlier afraid to voice up against the tyranny. Earlier, they were like a child afraid of dark, but now they had the courage to fight.

So, we have seen how & why is it easy to forgive the child, but shall we always do it? The answer is definitely no, as we must try to overcome any fear within ourselves and reach the stage of light.

As, if we keep on forgiving, it will get internalised and person will then not try to reform themselves.

Since a child can be taught how to overcome the fear so it is easy to mould him/her. But what if that child has grown into a man and his fear of darkness has got converted to fear of light?

TRAGEDY OF LIFE : AFRAID OF LIGHT

There is a need to contemplate as to why are men afraid of light & how this turns out to be the tragedy of life. There can be many reasons, as explored below.

Firstly, man loves power and do not wish to lose it. His true character

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gets surfaced out when he has power.

"If you want to test a man's character, give him power."

- Abraham Lincoln

If a man lose this power, he will lose authority in front of people and thus is afraid from this light. If Britishers would have accepted that Indians are not white man's burden then how would have they ever colonised India? They were afraid of this truth coming out & hence opted for creating an inferiority complex among Indians. This resulted into colonisation which was a huge tragedy for Indians.

Secondly, men are also afraid of light because once their conduct is out in the open, they they would face punishment and isolation in the society. As Aristotle rightly said that man is a social animal thus does not like to be isolated. USA had bombed Iraq for its own economic reasons of discovering oil, rather than finding any weapon of mass destruction. If USA accepts this, it would lead to decline in its status as a world power & thus they are afraid of light.

This resulted into huge tragedy as many innocent civilians lost their life & Iraq is even today feels its bount in its economy & social fabric.

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Thirdly, men are also afraid of light because of their ego-defensive attitude and lack of courage to accept the reality of life. The khap panchayats know that no human is pure or impure, but they want to keep their status high in their own eyes and thus give verdicts of honour killing. This has become a great tragedy and blot ⁱⁿ the exercise of fundamental rights (A21 - right to life)

And finally, men knows when they are doing wrong but don't want to lose credibility in front of others, and thus are afraid of light. The Developed nations know that they are responsible for climate change and global warming, but always puts the blame on 3rd world who is now expanding its fossil fires for development. This has resulted into a great Catastrophic tragedy of ultimate emergency & disaster, the brunt of which is faced by our mother Earth.

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It is definitely not easy and wise to forgive a man who is afraid of light because they are knowingly doing wrong actions.

Having discussed this fact, we now need to dwell upon as to how can we make a child fearful of dark & a man fearful of light to transcend their fears and walk on the path of truth.

SWITCH ON THE CONSCIENCE: THE GUIDING TORCH

The child fearful of dark needs to be taught about the virtues of courage and fortitude. The darkness in their life can be overcome by the voice from their conscience. This voice from conscience will come by value education.

The role of parents, teachers, role models, peers come into play who, by operant conditioning, mentoring and counselling will remove the fear from the child. Even the government is making efforts with help of sports and proper religious teachings via Madrasas, to help the radicalised youth transcend their fears.

The role of religious teachings like Yajurveda Upanishad which says "Tamasoma Jyotirgya-
maya" which means showing the path from darkness to light can be of great help.

It is not only for the child, but also for the men, whose character needs to be transformed and for that, there is a need of creating accountability mechanisms.

This can be done by strengthening RTI, social audits, citizen charters which would inject transparency so much so that men will have to joyfully mend his ways & character.

Further, the role of attitude change, by the acts of influence and persuasions needs to be at play. Moreover, if we adopt a policy of reform rather than punishment as a first chance, it will help men to gather courage to come to light.

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For all this to take place, we need a vibrant societal base, an active civil service organisations and an enlightened citizenry who is aware of their own rights & liberty.

Apart from this the enforcement machinery, both at global and national levels needs to be made strong in order to ensure accountability.

All of these steps will help a child to a man to examine their life, it's purpose and it's need. It is rightly said -

"An unexamined life is not worth living."

- Socrates

On a concluding note, we have learnt the importance of light in our lives. How does fear from light leads to tragedy. Also how can we transform from a child fearful of dark to a man facing the light brightly without any fear. Still, if one is not ready to walk on this path, then the world needs to be ready of more darkness in the form of destruction.

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of life. devastation of earth, increase in isolation and humans turning back to animals from where they have evolved.

Do we want this kind of life? Certainly not, so we need to follow right direction in our lives.

"Two roads diverged by in the wood, I took the one less travelled by. And that made the difference." — Robert Frost

(The one less travelled was the one leading from darkness to light!)

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.
सत्य, मशाल की तरह है, इसे जितना अधिक हिलाया जाता है, यह उतना ही चमकता है।
- Q.6 Art is I; science is We.
कला मैं है; विज्ञान हम है।
- Q.7 Only the dead have seen the end of the war.
केवल मृतकों ने ही युद्ध का अंत देखा है।
- Q.8 Act as if it were impossible to fail.
कार्य ऐसे करें जैसे कि विफल होना असंभव ही था।

Act as if it were impossible to fail

Lord Ram, ^{with his son} while on his journey to to
rescue Goddess Sita from the clutches of
Ravana, faced a difficulty when they were
required to cross the ocean waters to reach Lanka.

It was a mammoth task to
build a bridge in such short span of time
to let ~~so~~ that everyone could cross the waters.

But despite of the difficult nature of task,
everyone began working with all their might.

Some among those, were a group
of ants, who despite of their minutive size
were giving their best, pulling stone by stone
to make a beautiful bridge.

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Their act were acting as if they had already won and failing was not an option for them. This attitude of acting as if it were impossible to fail gave them courage to do what was otherwise not possible to be done.

They had valour and fortitude, and this act of theirs' motivated even others to give their best, ultimately resulting into 'Ram setu' over palk strait. This eventually paved the way for rescuing Sita from Ravana.

This small anecdote tells us the importance of acting in such a manner so as to assume victory already. Through this essay we will further explore why one should act like that, and whether it is always useful to assume victory? Further exploring why we fail despite trying our best & what should be the way forward in such a scenario.

ASSURED VICTORY: FAILURE IMPOSSIBLE

There are plenty of reasons as to why should we already assume victory when we act.

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Firstly, when we act in such a manner, it boosts the confidence in our minds and we transcend the fear of consequences of any failure. Tiny Ukraine is fighting ^{mighty} Russia with it's all might, by assuming that one day they will emerge as victorious. This thought has helped in boosting confidence of Ukrainian soldiers that they are ready to fight for their country.

Secondly, acting in such a manner shakes the confidence and morale of the opposite party. They began to feel that their power and people will no longer last & would pave the way for changes. Ram Mohan Roy defended the rights & dignity of woman by fearlessly voicing against the evil practice of Sati. He acted as if he has already changed this derogatory practice & Vedas helped him to ~~be~~ provide base for his arguments.

This shook the confidence of conservative ^{& orthodox} people and they were then forced to accept the new change.

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Thirdly, when we act as if it were impossible to fail, then this ~~seems~~ helps us in becoming the role model for the masses. We get support from everyone on our journey to victory which further helps in realising success.

Be it Gandhiji, who via his Non-cooperation and civil disobedience movement wanted to drive out British, or be it Mandela who fought against apartheid. Both of them had one thing in common, that they already assumed victory and thus acted as role model for the masses, which eventually helped to drive out British & abolish apartheid.

And finally, acting in such a manner as if it were impossible to fail surfaces out our true potentials as a human being. We overcome the vices of cowardice, laziness and sloth and fill ourselves with virtues of optimism, perseverance & motivation.

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Be it Durga Shakti Nagpal or U Sagayam, both of them fought against the illegal mining activities, knowing it's consequences for them. But assuming victory of an India free from corruption & unholy nexus which gave them courage to fight.

So, By now, we have seen the importance of acting in a manner of assuming victory. But is it always beneficial for us? Or does this have any negative consequences too?

BREEDING OVERCONFIDENCE: PATH TO DESTRUCTION

When we already assume that it is impossible for us to fail, then we are breeding overconfidence in our minds and excess of anything is bad for us.

This overconfidence closes our mind and takes away our power to analyse or to contemplate. Duryodhana, in Mahabharat, with his mighty army assumed that he will easily win over Pandavas.

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His overconfidence closed his mind to think and act rationally, the result of which is known to everyone.

Apart from breeding overconfidence, such type of thinking also makes us assume that our competent is weak. We fail to analyse the strengths in our opponent & the weaknesses in ourselves. Dangal movie shows how after repeatedly winning the matches, Geeta Phogat eventually lost against Australian counterpart as she didn't analyse the strengths & playing style of her opponent.

Therefore it seems that how it is important to assume victory, but simultaneously analyse our own performance in order to eventually win.

But is it always possible for us to win? No, it isn't.

FAILURE: OUT OF OUR CONTROL

Sometimes, even when we are fully prepared with all our might, the situation may become unfavourable for us

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which is not in our control. The Indian cricket team was fully prepared for the match against Australia, but it suddenly rained & one of the cricketers got injured. This situation was not in one's control & so even after giving our best, it resulted into failure.

Moreover, sometimes we may face failure in our lives due to a certain reason. It may come as a life lesson from God to test our strength and faith in our own preparation. Many students spend their lives years' to crack IIT/JEE or UPSC examinations but not everyone of them succeeds. This may happen ^{because} ~~that~~ even after giving our best, one may not possess the aptitude for such services. Their aptitude might be in some other profession which they realise after tasting failure.

So what should we do when we fail? Should we sit idly and blame the destiny? Or should we act again as if now this ~~now~~ time it would be impossible for us to fail?

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TRY, IF YOU SUCCEED, YOU LEAD. IF YOU FAIL,
YOU LEARN

- Swami Vivekananda

One should never give up on trying
but even if one fails. One needs to
contemplate and analyse the mistakes
made in past so that one can improve
upon it. It is very natural for a human
to make mistakes as -

"Mistakes are a proof that you are trying."

- Albert Einstein

Wright Brothers had to make
57 designs of plane before coming out with
a revolutionary flying plane. Aung San
Suu Kyi had to go to jail multiple times
before restoring democracy in Myanmar.

Similarly Edison had to make 10,000 bulbs
before coming out with the glowing bulb.

"Life gets better by change, and not by
chance"

If we need victory in our motives
then we need to mend our ways for

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achieving that victory. By doing so, success will come to us, sooner or later.

We need to be optimistic all the time and be motivated in our ~~my~~ lives as Dr APJ Kalam had also said, it is natural to taste failure when we are on a new mission. But this must not hinder our spirit & we must continue to act as if it were impossible to fail.

Here, the role of parents, teachers peers also come into play who act as an external source of motivation and ignite our energies in the right direction. Lord Krishna acted as a guide for Arjuna in Mahabharat war & he was able to win even with so small army.

Therefore it is important for us to keep moving forward in our lives just like the ants did while building Ram Setu. No matter how far the victory is, but our consistent efforts will eventually lay down our path to it.

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Therefore on a concluding note, we have understood the importance of acting in such a manner as if we were to succeed. And how should we channelise our energy back even if we fail. We need to learn from our failures so as to not repeat our mistakes in future. This will help us to taste the pleasure of victory.

But, is it good to act if we act for the purpose of achieving an outcome? After all Lord Krishna says "Karma kar Fal ki bhavita na kar" (Do you work without counting on it's fruits). After all that's what Nishkaam karma is. Leaving you with this thought! until the next try for achieving success.

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whistle blowing

Space for Rough Work

why Easy to forgive a child afraid of dark?

- fear
- don't know consequences
- can be taught

no wisdom

not prepared enough

France Revolu Napoleon
USA's hypocrisy

why men are afraid of light

privacy nepotism

lose respect & power / no credibility
corruption - own fault

wanted to exercise power
→ so no demagogues
→ Hitler
Jacob Zuma

Isolation
→ climate conspiracy
Self respect & ego-defensive attitude

(Khapa)

Zihadi's know that
Terrorism is not religion → spread of terrorism
lose charisma

why this becomes a tragedy

→ no change possible, no revolutions,
truth remains hidden, society into anarchy

Hammari chori choron se kam hai ke

How to transform a child → to men not afraid either of dark or of light

Value edu, role of media, religious teachings, govt. laws, enforcement machinery, societal values
wisdom, learn from experiences

No one does wrong knowingly - Socrates

Fear of evil, evil of fear

find yourself lose yourself

Unexamined life not worth living

Tamas yama - from darkness to light

Is there a connection?

