

If you desire to make a difference in the world,
you must be different from the ~~may~~ world.

In the 1960s, in Montgomery, Alabama,
a young woman boarded a bus. She quietly
occupied a seat and kept to herself. However,
soon enough, a man entered the bus and
condescendingly asked her to give up her seat
so that he could occupy it. Why did he make
such a demand?

It was because he, as a white man, felt
he deserved the seat more than the African -
American woman. But contrary to his expectations,
the woman refused to give up the seat. She
envisioned a world different from the existing
racial order and thus took an action different
from the world.

Her defiance ^{marked} ~~sparked~~ a turning point in the
Civil Rights Movement. Today, she is remembered
as the legendary Rosa Parks who dared to
be different in hopes of creating a different
world with greater equity for all races

In light of the same this essay aims to explore the need to be different if one wants to change the world. We begin by understanding what it means to be different and to make a difference. Then we explore how being different has in the past helped alter the world. But, next we ask - Is being different always good for the world? Finally, we discuss what lessons we can derive from this essay.

Being Different and Making a Difference

Let us first understand what it means to make a difference in the world. Simply put, making a difference means that our actions altered the current state of affairs.

It involves transforming society from an older position to a newer one. While sometimes this change is favourable, as in the case of Rosa Parks, at other times it may be undesirable. We will explore both these facets in this essay.

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इस दृष्टि में
नहीं लिखना
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But the path ^{to making} that makes a difference begins by being different ourselves. Being different from the world involves having an outlook, attitude, perspective, or belief that is contrary to most people around you. It means foregoing the 'herd mentality' and charting out your own path.

With these definitions in mind, let us now take a deep dive into understanding how being different is crucial to making a difference.

The Journey from Being Different to Making a Difference

Steve Jobs, the mastermind behind the modern technology giant Apple had once said -

"Those who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who change it"

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This quote highlights the importance of being 'crazy' i.e. being different if one wants to bring a difference in the world. This is so because when we are different from the world, we challenge the status quo, and this spark can change the world.

Perhaps the best known example of the same is that of Mauryan Emperor Ashoka. After the Battle of Kalinga, he felt great remorse and wanted to change the world by making it more peaceful. But how did he do so? He did so by being different from all his contemporary rulers and foregoing Bherighosha in favour of Dhammaghosha. His message of peace and Buddhism spread far and wide into central and Eastern Asia where it survives even in the present day. To His different outlook created a different world marked by greater peace.

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Ashoka's spirit of being different was also replicated by Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai. As a teenager living in Swat Valley, she chose to act different from people around ^{she} when ^{her} campaigned for female education in ^{her} Taliban infested region. She even took a bullet in her head for the same! ~~The~~ By pursuing the different action of raising her voice against the terrorist groups, she changed the world by attracting international attention to her cause.

Similarly, Indian business giant Reliance has leveraged the power of standing out. As late as the early 2010s, India had one of the most expensive internet services in the world. Then, Reliance adopted a different strategy from its counterparts when it launched Jio that provided internet services at highly economical prices. This was unlike anything the Indian markets had seen previously. Today, Reliance's different strategy

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of providing accessible internet has made a difference by not just raising Reliance's market dominance, but more importantly by ^{ensuring} ~~making~~ India one of the cheapest internet services in the world.

More recently, this principle was also applied by Indian administrators in flood ravaged Northern India. Specifically, five IAS officers - collectively called the "Wonder Women of Punjab" adopted the different ^{method} ~~strategy~~ of foregoing the safety of their offices to work at the ground level even during disastrous floods. By adopting this different method of public service delivery during a disaster, they ^{made a difference in} ~~changed~~ the world by saving countless lives.

Finally, not just at the individual level, but also at the national level, being



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different can help alter the world. Despite pressure from Western powers, India has chosen to be ~~different~~ by adopting the different approach of continuing to maintain trade ties, specifically oil purchases, from Russia even past the Ukraine war. This has made a difference in the world by protecting the strategic autonomy of the Global South and signalling that the era of Western dominance is coming to an end.

In all these instances, being different ~~helped~~ created a positive difference in the world. But as George Bernard Shaw once said -

“Each good brings its own brand of evil”.

In this light, let us explore the other side of 'being different' in the next section.

Being Different : All that Glitters is not Gold

Despite the positive charge that comes with being different, there also exists a downside. Let us now try to understand this perspective.

Sometimes, focusing too much on difference and the need to stand out can harm societal harmony by pitting us against each other. The aggression by Khalistani forces in foreign lands, the ongoing Kuki-Maitai dispute, and existence of regionalism often brings disrupts peace. It is also against the notions of 'brotherhood' and 'fraternity' imbued in our constitution.

Secondly, it is important to remember that -

"one and one make eleven"

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इस दस्तावेज़ में
कई विवरण
प्राप्त होंगे।
कृपया इन विवरणों
को ध्यान से
पढ़ें और
उपयोग करें।

That is, as a whole we are more powerful
that as ^{distant} individuals marked by differences.
Thus, an approach that sets aside differences
and works towards common goals like
climate change action and anti-terrorism
will help change the world for the better.

Finally, despite differences, most
people who manage to bring a difference
in the world share some common traits
like perseverance, dedication, and
the ability to work hard.

With these thoughts in mind, how
do we balance between being different
and being Alike?

Being Different : Finding the Golden Mean

Just like Aristotle's golden mean

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उपसंहार
प्रश्न संख्या
के अतिरिक्त
कुछ न लिखें।
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~~the~~ principle encourages one to not
take extreme decisions, we ~~can~~ need
to strike the correct balance in terms of
being different:

When being different makes a
desirable difference in the world, just as in
the case of Ashoko, Jib, etc, it should
be pursued. The courage of conviction
can give us the support and strength needed
to be different.

But simultaneously, when being
different does more harm than good, we
must leverage our emotional intelligence
to gauge the damage of being different
and refrain from doing so.

In India specifically, this approach

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can allow for peaceful existence in our diverse society. Differences can bring about positive changes that follow the principle of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat'.

Thus, in this essay, we saw both the light and dark side of being different. We must use the power of being different to usher in desirable changes in the world that uphold peace, harmony, concern for socio-economic-humanitarian needs and inclusivity. In this context, we must remember Gandhiji's golden words -

"Be the change you wish to see"

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कृपया
मार्ग
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कलम
में
लिखें
मार्ग
में
लिखें

If your ship does not come in, swim out
to meet it.

In a well known tale of the
Panchatantra, birds in a drought hit
forest were struggling to make ends meet.
Food supplies were dwindling, the streams
were drying out, and drinking water
became a luxury.

One day, the birds discovered a tumbler
filled with water. However, the water was
too deep and the neck of the tumbler was too
narrow for the birds to reach it. The sparrows
tried to reach it, and so did the cuckoos. The
pigeons tried their luck, and the parrots hoped
to drink it too - but they all failed and left!

A wise crow however did not waste the
chance ~~opportunity~~. It chose to seek it by dropping
stones and pebbles into the tumbler until the
water rose and it could drink it. ^{Even} When
circumstances did not support the crow, it
created its own opportunity and thrived.

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उम्मीदवारों को
इस कॉलम में
वर्तित लिखना
होगा।
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In light of the same, this essay explores how we must craft our own success if circumstances do not create it. First, we will understand the topic, after which we will examine how by seeking opportunities, rather than waiting for them we can ensure success. Then, we also acknowledge that sometimes seeking opportunities can be destructive in nature. We conclude by looking at the insights this essay leaves us with

Waiting for ~~Your~~^{The} Ship

Let us begin by understanding what 'ship' means in this context. 'Ship' here signifies an opportunity or goal or success. When our ship does not come in, it means we have not received what we were expecting it to, just like the birds were not able to drink from the tumbler.

By 'swimming out', we refuse to
accept fate or the circumstances as they
are and in the process ensure that our
goal or outcome is met. Just like the
crow created its own opportunity; we can
'swim out' to attain our targets even
when they do not come to us automatically

Now that we have understood the
topic, let us look at how 'swimming out'
can help us reach our ship.

Swimming out to Meet the ship

It is said that instead of waiting
for doors in life to open for us, we must
build our ^{own} doors to reach our goals. This
is because often times, success or opportunity
evades us. Without action from our
end, our future, left in the hands of
fate, ~~will~~ ^{may} become miserable. Thus, even

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former US President Abraham Lincoln
encouraged people to 'swim out' when he said -

'The best way to predict the future
is to create it'.

The Indian Freedom struggle is a
perfect example of the need to swim out.
Initially, the moderate led movement hoped
for change to come in from the side of
the colonial rulers. However, unsatisfactory
responses, half hearted reforms, and a
general apathy from ^{British} ~~their~~ end made it clear
that the ship of the moderates had not come in.

To reach the ship of swaraj, leaders like
Gandhiji decided to swim out into
turbulent waters by launching a mass
movement which demanded, rather than
requested, independence. Had we waited
for the ship of swaraj, would we be
celebrating 76 years of freedom today?

Closer home, India also decided to not wait for the ship to come in. After disastrous droughts that brought the Indian agricultural ^{sector} to its knees, India decided to take matters in her own hands. A science backed [green revolution] was launched to propel the economy towards

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its ship of food security. By swimming out, India transformed itself from an import dependent nation in the 1960s to a major exporter of agricultural produce in present times.

This spirit of swimming towards the ship was also replicated many decades later by the Naz Foundation which played an instrumental role in the ~~striking~~ decriminalization of homosexuality in India. The ship of equality had not arrived for the LGBTQ+ community despite Articles 14-18 guaranteeing the Right to Equality in the Constitution. So, the Foundation chase to seek it by fighting a legal battle that struck down Section 377 of the IPC. Today, this 'swimming out' continues with ongoing Supriyo Case which debates the legality of same sex marriages in India.

Finally, the ship of democratic rights is also being chased in many nations where it has not arrived. The widespread ongoing Iranian protests, in light of the death of Mahsa Amini, and the Umbrella Revolution which gains traction in Hong Kong from time to time are attempts to swim out to reach the ship they've been waiting for.

While these examples do encourage us to seek our own goals and create opportunities, is doing so always the right way forward?

The Other Side of the Coin

~~It is said~~ Life is barely ever made up of black or white, but mostly by shades of grey. Similarly, while the swimming



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out to our ships has done good, it can
also come with a downside.

In the world of Sports while
the chasing the ship of victory in highly
competitive events, some sportspeople ~~have~~
~~swim~~ out to this ship through unethical
and illegal means. The notorious case
of Lance Armstrong - who admitted to
doping to win numerous Tour De France
titles stands out. Others like ace tennis
player María Sharapova have also been
accused of the same.

Similarly, to reach the ~~ship~~
ship of financial strength, many continue
to swim out by pursuing corrupt means.

Former ICICI chair Chanda Kochhar
and IAS Pooja Singh of Jharkhand
have been accused of doing the same.

Was swimming out detrable in this
case?

Lastly, when the ship that we are waiting for ^{is} itself socially undesirable it is best to not chase it. Extremist and radical forces often wait for the ~~at~~ ship of communal disharmony. ~~and~~ When it does not come in, they seek it out by engaging in riots, fake news, and brainwashing. The recent violence in Nuh, Haryana is an example of the same.

With these shortcomings in mind, let us move to the final section of this essay which provides us with a roadmap ~~through this~~ ~~§~~ for the future.

Sailing Ahead

When our ship ~~is~~ represents a constructive goal that can empower both us and those around us,

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उपरी-द्वारा को
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नहीं लिखना
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We must display perseverence and
ingenuity by chasing it - This will allow
us to reach our targets even if the odds
are not in our favour. As is said -

'God helps those who help themselves'

Next, ^{when we are} ~~if our ship is~~ better off not
with the ship not coming in, it is best
to not chase it. We must also ensure
that even if the goal that the ship
represents is worthy; the means of
swimming out to it must be also be
morally sound. This ~~is~~ is in line with
Gandhi's and the Bhagavad Gita's
message of means mattering as much
as the ends.

~~But~~ ~~There~~, In a nutshell, this
essay explored how ~~by~~ chasing a

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इस खंड में
कोई लिखना
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ship that we've been waiting for
can allow for personal and social
development, provided that certain
caveats are taken care of. Just like
the crow, we must create our
own future rather than waiting
for it to arrive to us. By 'swimming
out' we will not only reach our
goals but also our highest potential

Leonardo Da Vinci - the great Italian
polymath - thus said -

“ The thing about Great people is that
they do not wait for Great
things to happen to them,
they happen to great things ”