

U.P.S.C.

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.

At the dawn of the industrial revolution, Great Britain sought territories all over the world from ~~which~~ ^{where} it could extract resources and dump its ~~machine made~~ ^{mass produced} products.

What began as trade soon turned into a quest for power with the nation soon boasting that 'the sun never sets on the British Empire'

The love of power drove Britain to exploitative tactics in all its territories, including India.

The Roman maxim of "Divida et Impera" was leveraged to fragment society, create communal tensions and stoke the flames of societal disharmony. The love of power made the colonial ~~power~~ ^{rulers} forego humanity.

However, at the turn of the 20th century, Indians turned to one another. Hindus and Muslims tied rakhis during the Swadeshi Movement, women joined rallies against the Raj, caste boundaries lowered and Gandhiji united the masses with the power of love.

This power ~~could not be~~ brought ~~the~~ India her independence and peace in 1947. The power of love had outweighed the love of power.

1
22
134

In this essay, we will understand how the power of love can bring world peace by countering the love of power. We begin by understanding what this theme means. Then, we examine instances in which ~~this~~ the power of love was used to usher in peace. Finally, we look at why this lesson is more important now than ever before.

Love and Power

The 'Love of Power' is best understood as an insatiable desire to command authority. This need can be driven by compulsion or greed. From Alexander the Great's ~~unrelenting~~ attempts to expand his kingdom, ^{and} ~~to~~ Aurangzeb's desire to hold control, to the ongoing Russia - Ukraine war — all these are tinted with the desire to ^{command} ~~spread~~ power. As is said "Power is a poison that can permeate through the most pious men"

On the other hand, the power of love refers to the transformative capacity of love.

The love of Bhakti poets for God was felt across the nation in medieval India. Similarly, the love of Mother Teresa for ~~her~~ fellow human beings and of Nelson Mandela for his homeland marked a turning point in their lives.

This power of love can overcome the love of power and create lasting peace marked by human compassion and understanding. With this in mind, let us examine instances where such a trend was observed.

The Triumph of the Power of Love

At the height of the second world war, nations were busy asserting their dominance. After Japan bombed the pearl harbour, the love of power drove Americans like Robert Oppenheimer to look for ways to regain their standing.

Oppenheimer thus used his scientific background to successfully create the world's first nuclear bombs, with the 'Trinity Tests'. ~~His invention~~ On witnessing the successful detonation of the bombs, he proclaimed (while quoting the Bhagavad Gita) -

"I have become death,
the destroyer of the worlds".

This newly acquired power was used by the USA to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki less than four weeks later. The love of power had turned USA into a superpower.

However, Oppenheimer went on to regret ~~the~~ ^{his} creation. As he witnessed the suffering his bombs had inflicted, the power of love took over him, and he spent the remainder of his life campaigning against the creation of newer weapons. When the power of love outweighed the love of power he became an advocate of peace.

Similarly the racist segregation system in pre-1960s USA was marked by the love of power and dominance over those deemed inferior. This was challenged by Martin Luther King Junior, Rosa Parks, and others who demanded equal rights for all. The power of ~~all~~ ^{love} thus created changed the American legal system and brought peace into the lives of many African Americans.

Closer home, similar developments have been witnessed in other fields. The love of power drove the colonial rulers to impose discriminatory laws like Section 377 of the IPC. Such laws allowed them to consolidate their standing in society. However, in independent India, driven by the power of love, the Naz Foundation campaigned for the right of people to love across gender boundaries. The Supreme Court's landmark verdict decriminalizing homosexuality brought peace into the lives of many LGBTQ+ communities.

32
174

The love of power can also manifest in the form of material resources. In the 1950s, zamindars held large patches of land thus leading to acute inequalities in society. Subsequently, the government enacted land reforms, and the likes of Vinobha Bhave leveraged the power of love to ask people to donate some of their land for the ~~betterment~~ love of their nation. In the process, over 160 million hectares of land was collected and redistributed thus quelling many rural uprisings and riots by the landless farmers. Love once again ushered in peace.

Finally, the love for their environment compelled the women in Reri Village to ~~launch~~ ^{launch} the Chipko movement against the loggers ~~who~~ in the Garhwal Himalayas.

The power of this love was such that it not only curbed the deforestation but also inspired ~~movements~~ ^{those} around the world from Appiko movement in Karnataka to that in Kenya. The power of love had spread

the message of peaceful co-existence
with nature

Now that the power of love to bring
about peace is well established, let us
look at how the world can use this
knowledge.

Building a Peaceful World

The ongoing conflicts in the world highlight
the need to revive the power of love.
With wars in Ukraine, ^{and} Azerbaijan, a
coup in Myanmar, trade wars threatening
economic stability, Pakistan and Chinese
aggression at Indian borders and the
ongoing Kuki-Meitei dispute, the
need of the hour is to remind everyone
of Gandhi's belief that "love is the
most powerful weapon".

It is important to note that by coming together, glued by the power of love, the greatest dictators can be defeated, discriminatory practices can be countered and an inclusive and equitable growth, as envisioned by Article 38 of the Constitution, can be attained which will sustain peace and prosperity in the society.

Hence, just like our freedom fighters who fought against the British, modern day Indians can combat the various challenges that India will encounter in the Amritkaal by remembering that —

“ Love is the antidote to human pain ”

7.

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.

In the late 19th century, an unknown scientist was eagerly working towards ~~a~~ his goal. Everyday, he would wake up and go to his work desk hoping that he would finally be able to overcome the setbacks he was encountering - on some days, his measurements were not accurate, on others, his method was incorrect.

However, instead of being disappointed, he continued to be infinitely hopeful and one day, his 'Eureka' moment arrived. In his hands he held the world's first ^{ever since} light bulb - an invention that ~~has~~ ^{lives} lit up ~~across~~ across the world.

The man is today remembered as ^{the} great American inventor - Thomas Alva Edison. His patience ^{and} perseverance allowed him to accept the challenges he faced but he never gave up on his dream. In fact, ~~he~~ ^{his} infinite hope is now remembered via his iconic quote -
"I have not failed,
I have found 10,000 ways ^{that} did not work."

150

In this essay, we examine the importance of accepting finite disappointments but never losing infinite hope. We begin by understanding why it's necessary to accept setbacks. Then we see how this approach has reaped success many times in the past. Finally, we see how we can develop ~~such~~ an optimistic attitude in life to be able to have infinite hope.

If You've Never Failed, You've Never Tried

'Finite disappointments' are encountered when things do not ~~go~~ ^{unfold} as we desired for them to. It's natural for humans to feel disheartened when their expectations are not met. However, overcoming such a state and continuing to be hopeful is the mark of a great person.

Finite disappoints, or setbacks, signify that we are making progress towards our goal. no matter how the outcome is.

619
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133

U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No.)

A famous tale from the Panchatantra narrates an ant's attempts to climb on a wall. The ant falls again and again and yet does not lose the hope of making it to the top. This infinite hope allows it to ultimately succeed.

Similarly, the author of 'Harry Potter' - J.K. Rowling was ^{once} rejected by thirteen publishers. Mandela was imprisoned for 27 years in Robben Island. Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Taliban. Yet none of them allowed for these setbacks to diminish their hopes.

After all, failure is the first step to success & disappointment is the doorway to your dreams.

The Harder You Fall, the Higher You Bounce

When we accept finite disappointments but retain infinite hope, we begin

our journey towards our goals, just like Edison.

~~Many an Empires~~ well known strategist Chanakya had once said that -

“~~The Harder~~”

→ It is said that hope is a flame that burns bright even in the ~~most~~ darkest moments of life. The same hope allowed Dr. Ambedkar to overcome the adversity and disappointment he endured at the hands of the caste system. Despite the challenges, he continued to harbour the infinite hope that a day would come when all Indians could live as equals. His perseverance and never-give-up attitude allowed him to lead the Drafting committee of the Indian Constitution which ^{today} guarantee to all their Right to Equality under Articles 14-18.

75
100

Post independence too, India encountered disappointments. The 1960s were marked by two wars and two draughts leaving the nation in a bad state. However, driven by the hope of creating a prosperous Bharat, the Green Revolution was launched. The hope displayed by leaders, scientists and farmers converted India from a food dependent nation to one of the world's largest grain exporters.
Would this success be possible if disappointed had diluted our dream?

Similarly, India's space missions also faced hurdles. When it began operating, Cynics in ^{the} West ^{had} wondered — How will a nation of snake charmers chase its space dream? However neither challenges nor criticism could diminish the hope India had in its capabilities and vision. Today, ~~kech~~ this hope has made India one of the top space research nations in the world. India's unwavering

hopefulness ^{was noted by} ~~made~~ Prime Minister
Modi when he proudly proclaimed —
“We have gone from the Upanishads
to the Upagraha”

Had finite disappointments held the
world back, we would not have been
able to ~~accept~~ emerge from the clutches
of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, even when
there was widespread suffering, hope
shone through. This hope was seen
when Italians gathered on their rooftops
to sing songs ^{and} Indians clapped and
beat utensils in their balconies to raise
morale. ~~and~~ Hope kept the world going,
just like the famous Hindi movie
dialogue —

“Umeed par duniya kayam hai”
(The world lives on hope)

35
103

This undying hope has also been displayed in the ongoing Iranian protests which began ~~at~~ after the death of Mahsa Amini at the hands of the Iranian moral police. Despite facing brutal suppression, men and women have taken to the streets to demand change. Similarly, pro-democracy activists continue to raise voice in the streets of Hong Kong while ~~the~~ crowds in France demand justice for the 17-year old boy killed by the police forces. Hope for change has driven action and pushed governments to meet citizen needs.

Finally, the hope of a world free from the adverse impact of global warming, has encouraged many to accept the finite disappointments in the form of vehicular emissions, breakdown in multilateral dialogues, and continued climate change. ~~due to~~ The infinite hope ~~that~~ of a sustainable economy has also influenced India's Panchamita goals.

How to be Hopeful?

To not allow finite disappointments to weigh ^{one} ~~you~~ down, one must exercise emotional intelligence and patience.

As is said "Rome was not built in a day". Hence, anything worth fighting for— be it a discrimination free society, a novel invention, or a national dream— requires time and perseverance along with infinite hope. The New Education Policy 2020 can inculcate such a mindset in young Indians.

Meanwhile, just like Edison; we must keep the flame of hope burning and continue to work towards our dreams in whatever way possible.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said -

"If you can't fly, run
If you can't run, walk
If you can't walk, crawl
but do not stop moving"

Hope is the fuel that ^{powers} ~~can keep~~ the engine of humankind and keeps us moving. 130.