

S.

(In struggling with misfortune lies the
(true proof of virtue)

In Greek mythology, Sisyphus was condemned by God Zeus to eternally roll a boulder up a hill, only to have it roll back. Albert Camus this as a strong parable of human struggle. Camus proposes two solutions, first is suicide, second is rebellion. Rebellion involves acknowledging absurdity of life and simultaneously embracing it and finding meaning in it.

The Absurdities we face can be of infinitely many forms. Today the unrest we see in manipulation is a kind of misfortune, climate change can be termed

(Don't
anything.

wheel

as a misfortune, something as basic as a child falling down in the process of learning to walk is a misfortune.

Misfortune is a form of reality which was considered undeniable or even unplanned. It is what happens when we say things did not go our way, like road accidents or even low marks in a test.

One would ask, how do misfortunes occur? Misfortunes can be a product of perception. When a greedy businessman is

sad he could not fulfill his daily target to sell expensive perfumes, he may consider it a misfortune. However the submarine which went down to see the

wrecked Titanic, its implosion was misfortune for humanity. Misfortunes can therefore be subjective.

~~One would wonder, how do misfortunes~~

Root cause of misfortune is when we fail to control uncontrollable variables. Like,

flash floods in many states today can only be responded to, not controlled per se.

Sometimes these uncontrollable variables react due to external factors; sometimes it is a doing of our own, by disturbing the equilibrium with controllable variables.

climate change, global warming has both anthropogenic and natural causes. Humans can only control anthropogenic ones as a preemptive measure.

One would then wonder, how does one respond to these misfortunes? Immediate response is often clouded, marked by panic, adrenaline rush. It can be seen during sudden seismic terror in north India this year when people rushed down away from their buildings. Generally emotions overtake rationality here.

Rebellion approach of Comus should be followed here. One must defy, assert freedom and find purpose. When the filament of bulb did not light, Edison kept trying different filaments. It took him more than a thousand tries to find the right temperature and composition of filament.

Reason and Rationality is not enough. One must also have the courage to do so.

~~Gandhi~~ Mahala Yousfzai ~~stood~~ ^{stood} up for women's education despite assassination attempt. Bhagat

Singh's martyrdom to the misfortunes created by British also reflected courage.

Along with rationality and courage, one must have the appetite. JK Rowling, despite the misfortunes from career and marriage, managed to dip deep into her creativity and create Harry Potter. She

had the appetite for multitude of characters intertwined in a dense web of a magical plot. She would be locked in a room for six months at a stretch away from realities of life.

(Don't
anything.)

There three aspects form Plato's theory
of soul, reason, courage and appetite

These are the virtues that reflect one's
soul. They make men of gold (reason),
men of silver (courage) and men of
copper (appetite).

A person with these virtues finds in
himself the solution to keep struggling
with misfortunes and often achieving success.

Mandela's walk of 27 years to freedom is
a living testament to this.

But the question arises, should one
always keep struggling? or does it
become futile sometimes? Subduing Tuvalu,
a small island nation does not have

the resources or even the answers to
rising sea level. It will submerge soon.
They need to migrate.

Sometimes the bolder becomes too heavy
for sisyphus to handle and he tries to
escape. When marriages don't work out, people
try to change their ways by separation.
It can be considered virtuous by some,
and not by others.

Struggles are eternal and must not
always be fought. Frozen war of Russia
Ukraine should be resolved. The struggle,
resources lost from both sides are both
misfortunate. The one would think the
answer is escapism, from the struggle, but

(Don't
anything)

here also, the answer is rebellion. The rebellion of political leaders to solve through negotiation. And if that is difficult, at least through "Just war theory".
The answer is ^{always} also a virtuous approach.

Are misfortunes always eternal? It depends on our perception. For a depressed person, waking up seems misfortunate, for a diplomacy head, failure of trade deal talk seems misfortunate. It depends on symptoms' state of mind, is the challenge big or small? But it is often said, life is a series of problems, one must be solved after the other.

So, are virtues enough to deal with these misfortunes?

One needs to identify impending problems. Parallel of this is Hazard and vulnerability mapping done in Disaster Risk Management. Government tries to identify beneficiaries before targetting any scheme.

Next step is to plan the course of action. How many onog towers are needed to improve air quality by "x" amount? How much budget must be allocated for fertilizer subsidy in the wake of fertilizer crisis?

Next step is to preparation for the plan decided. Contracts were rolled out for vaccine manufacturing to Serum Institute of India, Bharat Biotech

(Don't
anything)

Last step is execution of all measures with precision and courage.

India's vaccine programme was world's largest programme with a solid ~~storage~~ value chain. It also had the company to serve other countries through vaccine maitri programme.

Controllable variables must always be controlled with short term measures and long term vision, the health of our population and other countries and our relations with them.

Is perpetual struggle with virtues fulfilling? Or is it tiresome? Does it make life worth living?

(Don't Write anything)

Motivating oneself to wake up everyday, fight with the misfortunes of everyday life like lack of water in sheds, sudden downpour right before a ripe harvest can seem arduous.

But, humanity is built on "hope" "Himmat-e-Khuda, madad-e-Khuda".
[When we have the hope, even god is with us]

This is where the virtue approach gets its fuel. We take a leap of faith. We believe our mitigation efforts for climate change, small changes in lifestyle (Life approach), something as simple as "no Print-Boot" in offices by Japan can make a phenomenal change.

(Don
anything)

As Camus famously stated, "The struggle in itself towards the heights is enough to fill a man's heart".

Acceptance of reality and lack of faith are the virtues in the face of misfortune. Above all, "One must imagine Sisyphus happy".

N
NEXT
IAS

(Don't
anything)(Don't Write
anything in this Area)

Reality is a shadow of ideas

In his book Republic, Plato talks about "Allegory of caves". Four men sit in a cave with their backs facing mouth of cave. Fire is burning inside the cave and they can see shadows of any object passing through. They consider the shadow as real. By luck, one of them escapes into the sunlight and experiences actual reality. He comes back to the cave and persuades others to follow, who just make fun of him.

Cave here symbolizes ~~is~~ a den of ignorance. and how people develop a comfort zone in it. The man persuading others is the teacher who tries to enlighten them. The emphasis here is that one must focus on reality of ideas, not mere illusions. It is termed as ~~Hinduism~~ Moh - maaya in Hinduism, short term gratification over ideas.

But why do people want to stay in their illusionaly construct? Materialists thinkers consider it to be the true reality, within the worldly means. Marx propounds how increase in production levels is the manifestation of human progress.

Sometimes people do not have the resources or guidance to entertain the idealist approach of reality through ideas. A poor child victim of trafficking cannot afford to think about ideas or how this universe was made, she can only think about her next meal.

Sometimes it is also one's greed, giving in into their darker sides which keeps them from seeing beyond illusions. The war against drugs also has a side of targetting demand from youth.

Increasing inequality, poverty, conspicuous consumption needs traps them into a bubble of illusions, something which drugs reinforce, an ecstasy.

(Don't
anything)

One often stays in more illusions due to certain biases and prejudices. "Availability heuristic" is one where people think information available to them is one true reality. For example, ~~if~~ one may think smoking is not dangerous because they know someone who smoked three packs a day and lived for a 100 years.

"confirmation bias" is another such bias wherein one entertains only that information which conforms their sense of understanding, like on social media today.

The den of ignorance is a self reinforcing place which may be hard to escape, but out in the sunlight is reality.

Exposure to sunlight opens up avenues to objective and subjective reality. When Leonardo Di Caprio in Shutter Island realises that his role of a detective was an illusion, he realises he was a prisoner.

Western education and exposure to thoughts of liberty, equality and fraternity enabled our freedom fighters to make requisite changes in our society and study it objectively. Sati is a form of homicide, age of consent has biological basis said

Akshay Kumar Dutt.

When we are exposed to sunlight, we can see the root cause of problems, resolve them and aid to the progress of humanity. Critical and scientific

(Don't
anything)

reasoning based upon curiosity emerges from here, which our Fundamental Duties also suggest. Steve Jobs could not have invented iPod had he not thought beyond a cassette which can only store one song. He thought about a device which can harbour a thousand songs in one's pocket.

Often times, running behind reality can also mean going against social norms. The man who escaped the cave was subjected to sarcasm by others. Tesla was considered a lunatic and had no social contact. Galileo was disregarded by the state for heliocentric theory.

Despite the pace and time, exposure to sunlight and reality is imperative. But, is reality always the same for everyone?

Jain philosophy of Anukarada suggests when men were made to touch different parts of elephants, they inferred differently. Reality is infinitely complex and no one can understand it completely, like Syadvada propounds.

Each person's journal differs. Evenpin's perspective on Holocaust differed. Anne Frank had something to say, while the government records has a 180 degree view.

Today the Russia Ukraine war has different ideals guiding them. Ukraine claims "greedy Russia" while Russia claims "Expanding NATO".

However many domains like science agree upon common and objective understanding of reality. Einstein's theory of relativity has guided our understanding of universe and has also been proved by recent Nobel laureates. Formulas are the most objective way of expression.

Nonetheless, experiments also have errors and are never accurate, so is our understanding of reality.

Subjective understanding of reality paves the way for objective interpretation. Is the universe based upon only theory or loop theory? Is life on Mars habitable?

Only Asternis can confirm it.

The question arises on how must one steer close to reality as objectively as possible? Theory of Relativity must be used to understand things contextually. It is too hot for this level of humidity, has ~~been~~ the context of humidity and reality of temperature.

One must also try to be value neutral and free from biases. Men laughing at the one who escaped shows

biases. One can take the aid of gurus, literature to increase the pace of the process. It can also help one understand difference between manipulation and reality, especially in today's post truth society.

One can also use pragmatic theory and rely on experimentation. Tools could be questionnaire, interview, laboratory method. To understand the root cause of divorce rates on the rise, women across cultures must be interviewed.

Also, reality of ideas is not the only reality. Today's economy marked by increasing production is also a

reality. Increasing influence of technology in our day to day lives ranging from nanny cams to electric cars to electric funerals is also a reality.

Reality is an interplay of matter and ideas, both materialistic and idealistic. Both reinforce each other.

Microscope enables biological idea confirmation and scientific ideas enable production of surgical tools.

Differential realities must be embraced, studied and a common understanding must be attained. However, collective hallucination must also not be ignored while doing it

For, "if there was only one truth, we
couldn't print a thousand remarks using
the same theme" - Picasso.

