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Q2

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

When a little child cries at night due to fear of darkness, his mother lovingly embraces him knowing that the child is unaware of what lurks in the dark and calms his down singing a lullaby. However, when an adult is seen being afraid of trivial things, he is labelled a coward in the society. Unlike a child, a grown up is not supposed be afraid rather than venture into darkness to discover the light.

Thus, while darkness represents the fear of the unknown it is responsibility

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of the society and its men to embrace the positivity around rather than to have an escapist attitude.

Thus, In this essay, we shall discuss the reasons behind the avoidance of light and tragedy it causes. Further, we would the issue from multiple dimensions and examples of people who choose the light. Lastly, we would look into ways of creating an attitude of fearlessness.

The young children are unaware about the ways of the world. We as adults often tell the stories of boogeyman who lurks in shadows and scare children in order to protect them. Children don't have adequate knowledge to deal with challenges of life, hence, they are forgiven

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when they are afraid. The darkness is a metaphor for the evil or divergence in life that takes us on an adverse path. Thus, it is rightful for the children to be afraid of it.

However, an important question arises, why are these men, who are well acquainted with the wisdom of dealing with darkness, do not embrace light? One reason can be the education system. Neil de Grass Tyson says, "In the first year, we teach our children to stand up and talk, and for the rest of his life he is asked to shut up and sit down." Thus, the current system of rote learning, lack of analysis and logical rationalism takes away the power of reasoning which is necessary to deal with the hardships of life.

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Another attribute could be the pressure of society today to perform. The idea to always come first in class, to have a 6-figure salary in your 20s, have a good house and other standards imposed on society takes away life's passion of individuals. "Everybody has their own purpose, but ends up pursuing passion society assigns them", and not everyone does it takes on the path of light.

In one of his interviews, Franz Kafka, the renowned Author of "Metaphorphosis" and "Hunger Artist" tells the reason behind dark themes and grotesque description in his work. The author suffered from a troubled childhood, distressed relations with family and a life full of frustration that created a sense of darkness within him.

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The current instances of Terrorist like stabbing in France, mass shooting in New Zealand and attack on Children in Pakistan demonstrate this tragic outcome when men are afraid of light. Hiding behind the ideology of Islamic principles, the terrorists give a manifestation of their dark desire for violence and dominance, unable to come to acceptance about new order of world.

Thus, men are supposed to be the ones who lead and become a tragedy when they turn out to be cowards. Society expects grown ups to fight against the darkness rather than accept it.

The most common instance of this tragedy is when a patriarchial attitude of domestic violence is done at home, children tend to imitate their adults and internalize this behaviour, cementing it across generations.

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Thus, despite having all the knowledge, resources and tools to evaluate the ethicality and morality of an action, an act of inferiority is just cowardice, for which men cannot be forgiven. As a consequence of this tragedy, we have vicious customs against women like child marriage and female foticide which clearly shows people being afraid of light.

Despite constant effort by Government like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao & Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, the child sex ratio continues to decline in regions of Rajasthan and Haryana. While in 1950s it stood at 945, today it is down to 913 creating issue of Missing Women. Additionally, the tragedy worsens when the society gives acceptance to crimes like rape and further victimize the women.

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Another unforgivable tragedy is the establishment of military regimes. The military leaders, driven by the darkness of greed and power suppress the light by means of suppression and genocide. The Rohingya genocide and this refugee crisis, detaining of democratic leaders and silence of global community is absolutely unforgivable. Aung San Suu Kyi says "It is not power that corrupts but the fear of losing power".

While the past, we are much more aware about the impact of climate change and its long term impacts. Yet, its outright denial in form of Eviction of Tribal, Forest Conservation Bill, 2023 and the manipulation of EIA rules are testimony that there is lack of responsibility towards environmental and marginalized community.

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Another important aspect of people being afraid of light is the Mental Health Pandemic. We live in a consumeristic and materialistic society where everything has standards which are impractical in reality. The social media plays a major role in isolation of individuals, depression, anxiety and hypertension. The constant comparisons with Tik Tok influencers is creating unsatisfied individuals.

As a quest to maintain social prestige, we have witnessed suicides during Blue whale Challenge, Violence due video games and mass spread of fake news and misinformation. Thus, social media prohibits people in many instances by trapping them into their own tragic Echo Chambers.

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Another peculiar instance is where children themselves embrace the darkness. Today we have high instances of juvenile offences and crimes of murder, kidnapping, rapes which are even more gruesome that what others commit. It is a disturbing fact that while men are afraid of the light, the trend is being passed on to the children who lack the basic sense of morality, thus making it even more tragic.

However, there are instances, where people have struggled against darkness and embraced light. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, being from influential family chose to resist the social structures and work for women emancipation by helping in banning the Sati in 1829. Similarly he protested the religious orthodoxy and showed the light through

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philosophy of Vedanta.

Similarly Dr. BR Ambedkar showed a fearless attitude against the darkness of untouchability and proposed his revolutionary "Annihilation of Caste". He broke the social norms of an untouchable by being one of the most educated individual and led by example by becoming Chairman of drafting Committee.

After spending 27 years in prison, when Nelson Mandela was released and worked towards Revise of Apartheid, the he was asked by a journalist, what kept him going. To this, he recited lines from poet "Invictus" by Ernest Henley - "Beyond this place of wrath and tears, looms the horror of shade, and yet the

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menace of the years finds, and shall find, me unafraid."

Thus, upon examining multiple dimensions, a major question emerges as to how to inculcate the value of fearlessness and embracing of light. There are many ideas and philosophies. Gandhiji talks about his talisman of guiding our action in uncertain times. He also suggests the idea of satyagraha of being devoted to the truth in the face of darkness.

The Gita talks about the idea of nishkama karma of focusing solely on the duty while ~~Aristo~~ Plato proposes his cardinal virtues of courage, wisdom, temperance and justice in the face of tragedy

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Thus, it may be difficult to step out of the darkness into the light but that it is a great virtue necessary to being a good human being. Though, it may not be easy but as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam says :—

" If you want to shine like a sun, you must first Burn like a sun ".

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## खण्ड–B / Section–B

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

**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।

The ~~Bia~~ Truth is like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.

Though Britishers became defacto rulers of India, yet they were always aware about the cultural superiority and strength in numbers and unity of Indians. They had to suppress these facts to perpetrate their rule. They used Western education to Westernize Indians, the psychological tactics of 'white Man's Burden' to belittle Indian, even coercive measures like Vernacular press act to suppress the spread of

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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truth. However, the more they contained, the more it became pervasive.

Individuals like Raja Ram Mohan Roy's 'Gift to Monotheists', Dadabhai Naoroji's 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India', various newspapers like Kesari & Maratha duly strengthened people's resolves to uncover the naked truth to the masses. The impact was that by the end of RIN Mutiny, the truth shone so bright, that it compelled the British to withdraw from India.

Thus, the truth has a lot of power in it. It has a tendency to spread and resist coercive containment. The more it is caged, the stronger is the urge to break out. Thus, in this essay, we shall look into dimensions of truth being pervasive and how lies are volatile in nature. We would conclude the essay by looking into ways of securing the shine of Truth.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Gautam Buddha preached the truth of Non violence in 6th BC when there was large scale expansion of empires among Mahajanapadas. However, it was the turning point of Kalinga war when Emperor Ashoka finally realized the truth. His consequent policy of Dhamma to spread the truth in parts of the world not only shook the ideals of kingship but ingrained it into culture of India. Gautam Buddha said "Three things cannot be long hidden - Sun, Moon and Truth".

Religions at this tend to become Orthodox, filled with vices superstition and dogma and suppress the truth of devotion to assert dominance. Similar happened in medieval times, but the truth was told before people by Sufi & Bhakti Saints like Kabirdas, Gurunanak, Guru Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Salim Chishti, etc. They showed the truth of true devotion in religion is having faith.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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Dr BR Ambedkar, belonging to Mahar caste was deemed to be an untouchable. The caste system imposed on them immeasurable atrocities. However through persistent effort for education and knowledge, he found out the real truth of ritual based hierarchy. It was not merely a social norm but a quest of subordination and power by social elite. His efforts of sharing this truth in minds of people led to a large scale social movement leading to Dalit emancipation.

The norms of patriarchal society rest upon suppressing the truth about power of women, keeping them confined within roles of motherhood. However, women leaders like Indira Gandhi, Sudha Murty, Mary Kom and our current Hon'ble President Draupadi Murmu has shook this notion. Today women empowerment shines as a constitutional agenda and we have been on a path of shedding and accepting this truth in society

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Similarly, the Transgender community had been long discriminated in our country being called by derogatory names like 'kinnar' and attaching social stigma to them. Despite them being accorded same constitutional status they had been subjected to violence, discrimination in public and private spaces. However, the truth about their intersex rights and issues was brought forth by Supreme Court in Navtej Singh Johar judgment and by Government by Transgenders' protection of Rights Act. Thus, giving the community their true rights.

The power of worth of Truth can be witnessed through a story. A freedom fighter from Bihar was once arrested from his home. He was fond of music and in prison, he sent a note to his family. The note when censored by prison authorities was found to be highly seditious and conspiring against the British. It had just a single line written on Hindi.

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The note read," Is-Raj ke taar dheele kar do"- deciphered as 'let the reign of this Raj' be loosened'. He was summoned by the authorities and the humble nationalist replied that he was misunderstood and he merely wished to convey his family to loosen the strings of "Esraj" a musical instrument that he left midway, while being arrested Such is the power of Truth that shook the foundation of oppressors. Truth gave the power to imagine something that was beyond comprehension.

Similarly, Truth strikes fear in the minds of people who are not on right path. Karl Marx through his magnum opus "Das Capital' & 'Communist manifesto' shook the foundations of entire Capitalist economy by bringing forth the truth of conditions of working class, poverty and inequality in society. His writings led to Russian Revolution and establishment of communism.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

people try all sorts of things to shake the truth from its foundation. Albert Einstein to prove effectiveness of his Direct Current over Tesla's discovery of Alternate Current killed an elephant by subjecting it to AC current, despite knowing AC was the future. Despite his efforts, the global electric grid systems today work on principles of Tesla, not Einstein.

However, in present time, the narrative of truth is under constant manipulation. The creative freedom of artists gets suppressed for not being in sync with dominant ideology. Banning of movies like "Kerala story" multiple 'cuts' in the movies and protests by dominant groups against the movie 'Padmavat' depict how truth is moulded in current society.

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Social media has become a powerful tool of information manipulation. The COVID period witnessed fake news and misinformation leading to vaccine hesitancy. Terror groups suppress the truth by expanding radicalist ideology and religious nationalist promote vigilantism and mob lynching all by suppressing & shaking the truth. The IT Rules exert high influence on society through social media profiling, using biased algorithm and echo chambers.

The recent video being viral about women being paraded naked in conflict ridden Manipur shows the power of muzzling of truth. Soon after, the matter came to the light of Supreme Court and discussion in Parliament with criticism of Government in handling the situation. Thus, the truth finds a way to come out and shine before people.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

to ignoring the dominant fourth of the leads to massive negative consequences. We have constantly ignored the warning signals of climate and frequent IPCC reports that warn of rising temperature. Developed countries had ignored their historic responsibility and impose unrealistic conditions of development of on developing nations. The fourth of climate change now has been visible in form of Arctic melting, rising sea level, Arctic winters in North America and heatwaves in Europe causing lots of loss and cry.

On another international level, countries had been ignoring India's warning of China's Belt and Road initiatives as a form of neo-colonialism. Now the economic crisis in Pakistan and Srilanka are a manifestation of fourth & where chinese now dominate and dictate their policies. Thus, the fourth might long hidden.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है।
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However, the issue of truth becomes complicated when the premier Judicial system as guarantee of truth become ineffective. Our current judicial system has pendency of 4.5 crore cases. One of the reason is the complexity of laws, loopholes, colonial legacy and corruption. As a result of this, justice for millions is being denied, and as it is said - "Justice delayed is justice denied". Thus, truth can shine with support of a strong legal system.

Another issue of ethical nature emerges when holding back the truth becomes the necessity of the hour. Several exemptions in RTI that correspond to national security, details of weapons, about bilateral deals need to be protected for a larger good. The issue of balance between Transparency and privacy too is a tricky one.

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Thus, given the pervasiveness of Truth, its inevitability and complexities, what must be our guiding principles to uphold and uncover the Truth in its purest sense? Aristotle said, 'An unexamined life is not worth living'. The first step is about introspection about ourself, our morals and our values for which Lord Buddha too have provided with '4 Noble Truth' to accept in our lives.

At Governance ~~societal~~ level, we have adequate safeguards for truth in form of Right to Information Act, 2005, Citizen Charters, Parliamentary devices like question hours and public interest litigation. Need of the hour is effective implementation in both letter and practice for having no space for holding back information

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Lastly, as a democratic society, it must be our responsibility to stand for the truth in the spirit of Gandhiji's Satyagraha and fight for not just ours but rights of others too. As we need not just understand but being into practice of our cultural value of "Satyameva Jayate".

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