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Section B

The only way to go beyond things is to go through them

Born on the floor of an abandoned warehouse in a Miami to a ~~teen~~ teenage black mother, life was not easy for little Leslie from the day one. Growing up in abject poverty, he had to start working at an early age. Further, being labelled as "Intell-actually disabled" in his school, Leslie stared at a bleak future.

But things started changing when inspired by his new teacher, Leslie took up a course on human psychology. Studying, the thing he hated the most became his only friend. The mild autism that he suffered from

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did create problems, but he overcame them with sheer power of perseverance. This poor Leslie today is known as "les Brown" worldwide. Considered as among the greatest motivational speakers and corporate trainers today, his life is a firm reminder for us "The only way to go beyond things, is to go through them".

But why is it so? Why do we need to face situations to come out of them? And if this is true, why do people quit rather than facing their problems? What needs to change and how? Let's find out.

The very existence of humankind as the apex species on this earth today is the evidence ~~that~~ of the

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fact that without facing a problem head on, one cannot grow. Noted author Y.N. Harari in "sapiens" writes that the homo sapiens outlasted Denisovans and Neanderthals because they learnt to light fire, use tools et al. while ~~that~~ ^{our} evolutionary cousins, resigned to their fate, were wiped out by the forces of nature, as sapiens dared to challenge those forces. We tamed rivers & we ploughed our own food, and unless we did so, we would also be ~~be~~ have been adding carbon to the soil.

This quality of persistence, ensures that our setbacks are only temporary and not cast in stone. This ensures we break the shackles of failures and emerge as a better person ~~as~~ and a victor. For instance, the renowned poet Meera Bai Chamu would

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have found it easy to quit her favourite sport when she failed to qualify for the Rio Olympics 2018. ~~But~~ Instead she doubled down on her practice sessions and workouts, for she knew it was only a temporary failure. Eventually she went on to win silver at the next Olympics in Tokyo. Nothing changed, except for the fact that she decided go through things to go beyond them.

further, unless we face our fears head on, we cement them as ~~a~~ permanent hurdles in our path. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the late US president once said "the only thing we need to fear is fear itself".

In his autobiography he detailed how ~~the~~ ^{his} fear of drowning held him

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back in the other spheres of his life. Only after he conquered this fear, he could muster the courage to fight the presidential elections.

Similarly, one can not ~~be~~ expect to find the solutions to her problems, unless she is willing to ~~face~~ ^{look} ~~at~~ ^{them} ~~in~~ ^{the} eyes. For instance, the problem of COVID-19 pandemic, once looked unsurmountable for the world, but today we have those "Annus Horribilis" or tragic years behind. Would this have been possible, if our scientists had not shown the courage, the guts to tackle the virus head on and create vaccines out of it.

Moreover, eternal glory is attached to the name of only those who decided to fight till the end and

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not those who threw their towel.
for example, Simon De Bolivar is
remembered as the "liberator of Latin
America". In his quest to overthrow
the colonial rule, he undertook
an expedition across the Andes,
something people thought wasn't even
possible. Despite losing his ~~com~~
comrades to death and almost losing
his leg to frost bite, he completed
what he started and laid siege on
colonial garrisons, forcing them to flee.

While the world remembers and
cherishes him, nobody thinks ~~of~~ about
his fellow colonized soldiers who
accepted the colonial rule as their
fate and decided not to challenge
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It's amply clear ~~how~~ ^{now why} we can't go through things unless we grow through them. But still we find people, organizations and countries giving up rather than facing their problems. Why is it so?

Firstly, the decision to quit comes out of the feeling of complacency and unwillingness to put in extra efforts. For instance, Zimbabwe, once a bright spot of burgeoning economy on the Dark continent of Africa, failed to undertake systematic reforms in the face of rising tide of globalization. Instead, it took the easier way of printing currency to monetize its debt, pushing inflation to thousands of percent. It now counts amongst the

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poorest countries of the world, with
no respite in site.

Secondly, it has also to do
with our inherent irrationality.

Ron Arickly in "Predictably irrational"
says, humans are wired to take
patently irrational decisions at
times. The economic decisions of President
Mugabe of Zimbabwe also support
this idea.

lastly, it is our inability
to take a long term view of the
situation, that at times makes us
a quitter. for instance, Kodak once
a market leader in camera manufa-
cturing, stuck to its time tested
manual cameras, rather than
switching over to digital ones like the
competitors were doing. Rather than

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facing the competition, its evasive attitude ensured, ^{that} it ~~is~~ get confined to museums and not markets today.

That being said, the world we live in today is marked with new and unique set of problems from climate change to rising inequalities.

An evasive attitude would ~~at~~ only work as a poor multiplier to these issues.

The need of the hour is to display courage, display grit and to face these problems head on.

Being ignorant is not an option anymore. We need to understand the power of ~~what~~ we wield in both our hands and in our minds.

The lives and deeds of Mira Bai Chaur, FDR and Simon Di Bolivar, we need to learn how even impossible

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becomes possible, if we let go of
our inhibitions and dedicate ourselves
to a cause.

Coming back to where we started,
the golden lines that Mr. Les Brown
often says " In the depths of your
despairs, just remember one thing,
Nothing changes unless you do "
