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इस भाग में कुछ न लिखें
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English language.

Test 2322

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Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric.

The history of science has seen many bright minds, but shining like a star is Galileo himself. But the greatest physicist was under home arrest in last years. What was his sin?

His sin was about the eccentric opinion of heliocentricity - sun at centre with Earth revolving around it. But the preponderant power, the Church believed in the opposite. Moreover, other than the free thinkers, majority of people thought Galileo was eccentric. But Galileo definitely was not getting fearful, he knew that he was on the side of righteousness. And Justice came, when the Church had to apologize for its treatment to Galileo after

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many years & Heliocentricity is accepted opinion.

It is true that Justice delayed is Justice denied but it brought out a critical fact → 'No opinion is eccentric'!

Truth is not a prerogative of some special people but it's a prerogative of everyone with the power of speech.

Today's speech is the opinion of tomorrow & possibly the truth of day after. Hence, no matter how hallucinated one may sound, one should be fearless in voicing one's opinion even the most eccentric ones. Who knows he might be the Galileo of today?

[Fear for eccentricity - A natural trait]

'Fear is the most powerful weapon against reason' - Al Gore.

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Throughout history, people & societies have been fearful of the unknown & abnormal. Societal expectations, cultures, introverted nature are some reasons why individuals are keen to bandwagon the natural consensus.

At the level of institutions, it is believed that dissent, a fundamental right under Freedom of Speech & Expression, is an irritant than an agent of change. It is thought of opposing tradition, ease of status quo, creating power structures through, sedition, misinformation etc. Hannah Arendt terms this as the 'rise of mass' i.e. Homogenized Individualism and decline of public sphere. She believed that humans are favouring the reduction of freedom because of fear of freedom.

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Why one shouldn't fear raising opinions?

'Every lie we speak is a debt on truth and every debt is eventually paid'

- Chernobyl
Enquiry Commission

It is true that not every body speaks the truth but truth can be spoken by anyone. The accident at the Nuclear Plant of Chernobyl learnt it the hard way. For years, they ignored the safety audits by saying that soviet reactors were the pinnacle of safety & technology. The Chernobyl incident not only burst the myth, but killed hundreds & eventually led to collapse of USSR in 1991. Opinion, if backed by evidence, is the truth. Sure, it can be debated but it cannot be ignored.

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The famous sociologist Thomas Kuhn called it the Science of Paradigms. A Paradigm refers to one's opinion or knowledge. But a paradigmatic shift happens when opinions backed by evidence ~~are~~ emerge. Thus, if Science itself is pluralistic, why should one's opinion be?

Eccentric opinions have the potential to develop the society & the globe. When the accepted opinion of Divine Rights of King was challenged by Voltaire, Machiavelli & others, it was played down. But if they had backed down by fear, would the birth of modern democracy take place?

Not only does freedom of speech and expression expands civilization but it also inspires

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others to take road unknown.
And that makes all the difference
in the world. Just a few years ago,
the conventional opinion of job
taker was thought to be the ideal
path in India. Opening businesses,
startups were taboo. And today,
India has the largest number of
unicorns produced in a single year.

JS Mill had said it correctly
that people have the right to
free speech & exercising one's opinion.
If he is wrong, he learns but if he
is correct, the whole world learns.

Why people fear diversity of opinion?

'I may not agree with what you say,
But I will defend your right to
say it' - Voltaire.

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The buzzword of today's world is Diversity. Due to the practices of racism, untouchability, exclusion, it is thought that diversity will lead to inclusiveness & equitability. Today we have of diversity of colour, diversity of race, caste & others. But consistent studies show that diversity of opinion is reducing.

'Tolerance is the substantive heart of liberalism' was observed by J S Mill. But tolerance to views contrary to one's own is reducing. People are getting fossilized in their thoughts.

Plato had explained it in his Allegory of Caves where few men in a cave perceive reality through its shadows. But when they come out to experience the world, the light of

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The sun is discomfort to the eyes.

People are comfortable in their own habitats. A man may fear to voice his opinion but the overall society is more fearful than the man to hear his opinion. Just as claps need both the hands, the 'man - other people' orientation is critical to voice opinion. Just as the man needs to be level headed, the society too needs to be open-minded, overcoming the dogmas. Close minded societies rarely & people rarely have longevity in a world of change. Similarly, the existing opinion makers of society & its leaders too need to change. They cannot sit in their ivory towers to belittle the dissenters. Phana munda did it to a poor teacher. And the poor teacher

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Kautilya utilized the advice he himself gave to the arrogant king to overthrow him.

Developing respect for diversity

Hence, one needs to be like Chandragupta & not Phanaganda and approach life & societal issues with different lenses. In this line Karl Popper gave a fantastic idea of 'Falsification'. True knowledge or science is ~~not~~ true unless it can be proven otherwise. Hence, respect for proof is paramount.

Additionally, one needs to be careful while imposing labels of 'eccentric' & 'authentic'. This is because eccentricity is a continuously negotiated entity. Today's opinion was the eccentric opinion of yesterday.

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Once Nokia's number pad phones was thought to be the dominant way. But today Apple's smartphone is the new consensual opinion to be the best.

Similarly, government should bring what Rawls called as 'Democratic Political Culture'. Under the Constitution, ~~one could~~ people could take varying stands, they can debate to reach a common ground. This freedom of Speech & Expression ensures equality & liberty for all and upholds the freedom of dignity of the human.

Suppressing diversity of thought & opinion might seem tempting at first. But it has long term disadvantages. The examples of French, American & Russian Revolution ~~showed~~ should exactly that. Again as

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J S Mill commented

'No state becomes greater by dwarfing its own citizens'

Safeguards for opinion makers

However, safeguarding diversity of opinion is not just the responsibility of society & state but of individuals themselves. State is individual writ large.

People should be respectful towards their fellow humans.

Voicing eccentric opinion should be done respectfully in easy & parliamentary language. Any sort of hostility just increases the opposition. Just as one wants his voice to be heard, he must give equal respect to the voice of others as it can benefit him in the future.

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Future prospects

It is true that humanity reached where it is today by respecting eccentric opinions. All of today's facilities - Internet, Penicillin, Telephones etc - are the result of the previous eccentricity. But does our opinion of how world functions needs to change?

One observes that people are mentioning about how climate change, problems of inequality & poverty are false. To them, people expressing these opinions are eccentric denying the evidence.

Hence, one needs to see that the idea of eccentricity i.e. sustainable development is the new accepted opinion. Not accepting it has actually led to decline in life of.

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a majority of people. The factor the planet accepts this truth, the more chance it has in the future.

The newness of expressing the eccentric opinion is what one would call 'True Freedom'. Without this freedom, one is similar to animals. It is true that one should filter out opinions but keeping an open mind is the need of the hour. After all, the fluidity of mind & opinions have advanced human civilization. It reflects the hope of Curuchee Rabinranath Tagore

↳ where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
where the clear stream of thought
has not lost its way!

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Is man a puppet in the hands of fate?

Since, the dawn of humans, the question of fate & destiny have puzzled scientists, theologians, philosophers. So let's understand this through a story.

Vallabhbhai Patel was born in Gujarat. He became a successful lawyer and was initially reluctant to idea of Swaraj. In the guidance of Gandhi, he became one of the tallest leaders of Freedom Struggle, later the home minister & recognized as the 'Iron Man' of India. This view seems to suggest that Sardar Patel was fated to lead a life of success, doesn't it? Let's try again.

Vallabhbhai Patel was born in Gujarat. In his childhood, he faced acute destitution, but he studied hard & became a successful lawyer.

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Seeing his terrific skill in Oratory, Gandhi convinced him to join the freedom struggle. The title of Sardar was given to him by the women of Karsad where he braved lathi charge & imprisonment. Despite countless arrests & police torture, he rose as a tall leader. The title of 'Iron Man' was given to him after he united the 565 princely states through grit & determination. This detailed view however challenges the previous view of fate. & suggests that Sardar Patel was not born but made.

Thus, this essay aims to simplify the age old dilemma of fate, action, destiny by diving deep into the question.

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[Concept of fate]

It can be observed that all societies, cultures & religions have a concept of fate. It comes as a common feature, traversing across time & space. Scientific & historical evidence points out that it was a way to exercise social control over man.

It was designed to harness social ethics & actions which could preserve the society. Without it, the society would have fallen into anarchy.

But Philosophers & later forms of religion take a different view.

They believe that fate has always existed & what happens always happens.

Whether by using god or a conception of Universal force, use of

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morals like Tatvas or Lord Krishna's Bhagavad Gita, they point out how man is helpless in front of the supernatural. somebody pulls the strings & man responds.

'Man Proposes, God disposes'

'Is Man powerless?'

'whole world's a stage, men & women are just players with their own entry & exit' - William Shakespeare

At the battle of Kurushetra, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna that whatever happens in the world is due to His will only. Arjuna was insignificant in the larger scheme of things. He was just a puppet to portray portray God's message.

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Every year, billions of people are born in poverty & die in poverty. There is absolutely no sense of logic in this. Nobody expected the Covid Pandemic, nobody knew who will die or who will live. Is this not fate?

Though science may say that everything can be measured & verified but what about pre-Big Bang era. Is it not fate that a ~~large~~ explosion kickstarted the universe?

Propagators of the fatalist belief say that just because there is absence of evidence, it does not mean there is evidence of absence. What would happen will happen. Hence, people should leave things to the fate.

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Loopholes in the fatalistic belief

'I am the master of my fate.
I am the captain of my soul'

— William Ernest Henley

(Poem - Invictus)

Going through the Bhagwad Gita again, Lord Krishna also said to ~~Arjuna~~ Arjun; 'Upon your actions you have control & not on the results'. Hence, go and do your duty. So if action is important, fate becomes subservient to action.

Similarly, the reasoning for Covid is provided by the scientific community. WHO had already recommended that states should prepare for pandemics due to rising climate change. Gain of climate function research at Wuhan

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just improved the risks of an outbreak.

Some scientists & philosophers, thus, disapprove of the fatalistic notions. They, too given the some argument that absence of scientific evidence so far is not a proof of dominance of fate. Well this brings it to a classic ~~case~~ case of 'chicken & egg problem'.

Fate says that fate lead to situations & actions & forms one's destiny. Science says that fate is an illusion & hoax. One should believe in the theory of action to reach his destiny. Here, the 2 extremes have mutually irreconcilable positions.

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Way Forward - Madheyan Marg

If you are born poor, it's not your fault
If you die poor, it's your fault.
- Bill Gates

A boy was born into a super poor family. Being the youngest of the children, he was only sent to school at the insistence of the local teacher. He studied hard but was an average student. He pursued a degree in aerospace engineering but failed the ~~aerospace~~ engine air force exam. Through many such trials & tribulations, he became the President of India. There also he could enjoy his protocol but his honesty, proactiveness & kindness made him the People's President. And that is APJ Abdul Kalam.

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It was definitely fate that he was born in a poor household but it would be an insult to his capabilities if his successes depicted as fate. Even many people including his siblings are in his position but they could achieve what he did.

A very similar case can be observed in the UPSC examination. The very low success rate at first indicates that only fate will decide the result. But if one takes a look at the merit list & into the life of the aspirants, it becomes obvious. They did know that UPSC is tough, everybody knows that UPSC is tough. But still they persisted, wanted hard & got selected. And this is what makes one an ideal aspirant in life or in the UPSC exam.

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Thus, this Buddhist Way of Golden Mean helps to resolve between the known & unknown. It is resonating with the words of JS Mill -

'Over himself, over his own body & ~~to~~ mind, the individual is sovereign'

[Role of Fight & role of fortune]

Thus, the only variabilities in human life is fighting capacity & fortune. Manipulation of such variables modulates one's destiny. Success is when fight resonates with fortune to create multiplier effects. At first glance, it may seem fate but it is not fate only.

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'Fortune embraces strong men'

- Machiavelli.

It is true that life is a struggle due to huge competitiveness. But only the people ~~has~~ who have the tenacity to fight, emerge successfully. One who keeps on fighting is the one who keeps living. Robert Bruce lost first 7 of his fights and had lost hope. But his fateful observation of the spider picking himself up multiple times led him to try again. That time he won. Thus, ~~if~~ it also can be said that eventually if a person puts sufficient investment into a goal, he will be able to achieve it sooner or later. Honest effort with dedication and ability to adapt eventually leads to success.

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Utility in life

The harder I work, the luckier I get

- John D. Rockefeller

A man can do anything so far he loves his strings. This shows that despite fate making him a puppet, he can dance to his own tune. He has his own free will & is not bound by fatalism. The probability of fate & luck derailing him from his destiny goes on reducing as he starts to believe in himself & his capacity to surmount difficulties.

The debate of man being a puppet in the hands of fate will carry on just as life. But one thing which cannot be

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denied is the value of action. On earth, Man is the only sentient being which can mentally plan to direct action towards his aspirations.

. It is true that fate put man on the earth. But it is not man's fate that he thrived. It was his actions. Neandertals, other mega fauna too came on earth but ~~it~~ did not make it.

Thus, to conclude it can be said that man is ambivalent to fate. His origins may be due to the puppet play of by the hands of fate. But his strings of self-actualization and destiny are in his own hand.