



POLITICAL COWARDICE---NO HEROICS HERE

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What everyone says about heroism being dead may be a little true, considering how people seem to easily change sides and perspectives so often. With turncoatism being the name of the game in politics and most everywhere, those who used to be staunch supporters of a certain individual will just as easily hurl stones at the same individual when the supporters feel the heat under their collars. Nothing is ever permanent, everyone turns oh-so-suddenly fickle, and the one initially supported gets caught holding the bag. Such is the way things happen nowadays, with no let-up apparent in the horizon.

No one wants to suffer humiliation or censure—reputation is something to be protected with your life. Priorities change just as easily as politicians change parties, so the confused public is left with little or no choice but to look elsewhere as well. And yet, for those who value the relationships that they have formed, for those who still believe that there's more to living than mere protection of the family name, for those who believe that the world is not so jaded after all, there's hope yet. That hope will shine like a beacon for them, that the one prosecuted will one day find what is lost, regain what has been unwittingly let go, get back what has been taken away.

It is perfectly fine to feel fear or uncertainty. What is not okay is to let go of a sense of decency and humanity just to pander to public clamor. What is popular might not always be morally upright nor humane, for sometimes, going against the grain woven by humanity may just be the only human thing to do. Those who take to the streets to show their disapproval and criticism against certain policies are to be commended. They risk life and limb just being out there. When asked what they are fighting for, they give a really strong answer: this is for my children, my children's children. What they are clamoring for may be too remote for the viewing public to actually sympathize with, but come to think of it, isn't that what everyone wants, as well? A life that's free of discrimination and injustice, a life that everyone in a democratic country deserves?

For these people, the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. Edmund Burke had it down pat. Of course, this is not to say that at every little chance we get, we should all take to the streets. We may not be as radical as they are, but at least, we should be brave enough to offer a prayer for them, that whatever it is they are fighting for will benefit all of society. In the end, this is something that won't take a great ounce of courage to do.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. They say that politics makes for strange bedfellows. Find the meaning of this idiom and be able to explain what it means in your own words.
2. Why do you think it's so easy to change political affiliations in government?
3. If you were a government official and one of your party mates was under investigation, would you stand up for him?
4. How have political protests affected the world? Are they always effective?
5. Have you ever joined a protest or demonstration against an issue in school/government? Be able to describe that event and how it has affected your political views.