



OF THE FEARLESS HEROES IN ALL OF US

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There is a hero in every one of us waiting to be unleashed. We may not have the special powers of our superheroes, but what we do have we can readily put to good use. Superman has his X-ray vision, superhuman strength and speed; Captain America has his mighty shield and other special powers; the Hulk has his well, hulk to scare off his enemies. And so do other superheroes immortalized in children's comics and blockbuster movies.

We might only have our own humanity to be proud of, but its strength is immeasurable, yes, in more ways than we can think of.

It is the strength of the human spirit that made heroes in history stand up for what they believed was right. It was the essence of humanity that drove those very human heroes to speak up and question the evil that they had witnessed, and to prove to the world that the only way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. That saying was not set in stone to only remain so, but for everyone, for the hero in each one of us to come forth when needed.

These times have been filled with much injustice, cruelty and ineptitude. Those who serve in politics find out early in the game that to be able to survive in such a highly-volatile arena where affiliations get easily changed, they must learn to virtually do as the Romans do. Politics does make strange bedfellows. It is an arena where unholy alliances are forged by enemies being forced to work together by various circumstances (http://www.phrases.org.uk/bulletin_board/45/messages/158.html). Unfortunately, such unholy alliances are not meant to last, only intended until the next electoral exercise.

Many of us have become jaded already. We no longer see it worthwhile to pursue protesting against a cruel circumstance or tyrannical rule. We have lost the will to question what evil there is in society and to topple evil schemes and connivances. When one starts to question, he is accused of imagining conspiracy theories that do not exist. He is subsequently ridiculed and put to shame.

We live in a cruel world where whistleblowers are implicated in evil plots, where those who march out into the streets in protest are given ultimatums to cease and desist from such actions. We live in a world where heroes are said to be searching for firing squads to gun them down eventually.

But I believe that among us, there are still heroes who are willing to risk their necks to uphold the truth. There are still a few good men out there who will willingly give of themselves until nothing of them is left, and only the welfare of the majority is protected.

There will always be fearless heroes in the delicate web of our humanity.

Questions for discussion:

1. Why are modern-day heroes difficult to find? How different are they from historical heroes?
2. Do you agree that exceptional individuals like Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Pope John Paul II can be considered heroes in their own right? Why or why not?
3. What makes a hero, in your opinion? Can heroism only be demonstrated by fighting in war?
4. How can you, in your own way, become a modern-day hero?
5. Why are our fears different from the fears of ancient people? Be as specific as you can.