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# AN INNOCENT EVIL CALLED "HOPE"



*A loyalist who loves to think outside the box and believes world is still a decent place to live-in*

**Manas Mishra**  
**MBAEx Class of 2023**

I have a feeling. It doesn't bereave me even in my deepest of adversities. Sometimes I despise it for betraying me, misleading me and even hurting me, but still most of the time I crave for it as a falling man does even for a flaming rope. It is the essence of most of our lives, a fuel to our tomorrow. It is naïve, simple maybe even bordering on stupid, but still keeps us going; when the going gets tough. It creates a true sense of despair on its departure, but still returns to bring about smiles to our mundane faces. This feeling is called Hope.

The basic agenda of hope is the provision of consolation in the face of hardship. It acts as a tranquillizer to our perturbed mind when we are faced with a problem. Its credibility might be questionable, but not the meaning. Hope is an asylum, safe haven behind whose walls you can summon any

amount of strength to deal with your problems. It is ironic though that many times these walls are made of paper, we do not need to realize that. More often than not hope is a mirage. But it is the presence and not its perseverance that matters to us. Even a shadow to a lonely person on a long walk can provide company.

Hope has many forms; belief, superstition or faith. It can be a face, place or even a thing. Even the deepest-seeded ideologies of faith are based on the aspirations of hope; for a better life, a better understanding of the world and a better tomorrow. Superstitions are often the offspring of a cluttered mind in search of hope. Stigma and totems are all branches of the tree called hope. Practices and routines are often followed in the hope of stability. But hope is often distorted when it is imposed upon others; it then takes a devilish form. Too much hope is a poison even to the most phlegmatic of minds. An extremely hopeful person often wants others



to view the world from his or her eyes. But hope cannot be created, it can only be awakened.

Some even say that hope is the last resort of a defeated individual. But if we think about it then we will notice that hope has always been striding beside us in any of the marathons we run in our lives, we just realize its presence only in our last yard. Any task we start, we hope to finish it. Any hardship we face, we convince ourselves to come out of it. In any tunnel, we enter we hope to see the light at its end. Our very own meaning of moving forward is in the hope of what we will discover next.

Hope develops a very curious way of thinking in our minds. We tend to become oblivious to the harsh glare of facts streaming at us and find a retreat in the possibility of a miracle, an act of God. Hope defines boundaries to a person's infinite sense of capability. It halts a person from moving into a territory owned by pride, ego and vanity. It is a leap of faith taken by human beings, a sense of free fall where you relinquish all sense of self-control and wait for your landing; a bed of roses or a bed of rocks to meet your fall.

But resorting to hoping to meet your problems should not be the opening move. Hope only helps when it is propelled by effort, without effort it only remains a wish; and wishes

do not come true, unless, of course, you find an old lamp in a mythical cave, rubbing hard enough for a genie to come out! Even an aeroplane requires wheels to run before takeoff.

But hope has a split personality; an alter ego called despair. In one of my favourite movies- 'The Dark Knight Rises' the antagonist Bane says - "There cannot be true despair without Hope". It is an evil truth. Despair is the thorn to the rose named hope. It leaves a person cheated and angry at hope, nature, god or any of his beliefs. We even blame ourselves for romanticizing this elusive mistress named hope. But despair also arouses a different kind of emotion, that of fear; fear not of facing despair, but of the inability to hope again. We have to keep believing that hope is the default setting of our minds. Even after being betrayed a thousand times, we still find ways to find it; we want to find it. It's the google homepage of our mind's internet browser!

In the wake of preserving the stream of hope, people recourse to many eccentric habits. The great Sunil Gavaskar always walked left to his opening partner while emerging out on the field at the start of his innings. Demi-god Sachin Tendulkar rarely ever took the striker's position while opening the batting He would also meditate at the centre of the pitch on the eve of a match; same with 'the super bat'- Matthew Hayden. Sportsperson return to the same gear worn on their previous success, and Politicians begin to

campaign from the place of their preceding victory. Orators open with a similar statement. And writers develop a specific style of writing from which they hardly ever abstain.

Finally, hope is medicine for some, a pillar of trust for others and a sanctuary for many.

It is whatever you want it to be. It is two-faced, but we know it. It is deceptive, but we still crave it. It is evil, but we still desire it. Because in the end, a Human without hope is a body in a coma; living, but not alive.....

*"Remember. Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies"*

- Shawshank Redemption

