

It you want to shine like a sun, first burn  
like a sun

Lionel messi, world's number one footballer of present time, was asked by a reporter a question when he was 1<sup>st</sup> selected into the national team "How do you feel about your overnight success?" messi paused and gulped and explained "actually it took seventeen years of persistent hardwork to become today's overnight success."

The above incident exemplifies an order to one day shine like a sun, one need to invest for it by burning like a sun in the process.

In the following essay we would explore what does it mean by burning like a sun, and shining like a sun and how both are

intricately tied together.

Human is a distinct animal. It is differentiated from other animals in the respect that it is not subordinated by mere instincts.

So on one hand, quest of animal kingdom considers success of ability to find food and reproduce, human's idea of shining and satisfaction is considered larger.

Human definition of shining could be different across geography and society. In India an individual might consider getting a particular job as shining whereas the other might consider getting respect for the same.

Similarly the burning for shining might hold different meanings for different people. one might argue that medium and firefly do not burn but then also shine so what

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is the logic in unnecessarily burning in order to shine when that can be achieved rather comfortably.

The answer of above conundrum lies in the goals. for when the goals are extraordinary, the demand extra ordinary effort. for primitive man hunting a mamoth would have been difficult, for Indus valley people making port at dhalevira & lothal would have been difficult and for our forefathers goal of freedom was difficult. these all in their own unique way toiled, found ways and tools to outshine the adversities to realise their own brightness. their shining thereby separates them from the rest and create history in the process. But is it necessary to burn in order to shine?

It is said that more one sweats in peace, the less one bleeds in war and comparable

analogies extend to other domains. It highlights that in order to not only excel but to merely survive one has to put effort. That effort could be as simple as following traffic rules or as challenging as staying put in a trench midst of rain and with no food in order to survive enemy fire.

So, Irrespective of perceived difficulty one has to put effort. And the greater the effort put the higher are likelihood of one going above the threshold of what is considered ordinary. The upward breach of threshold of ordinariness is the shining which is remembered and even if not it is satisfying for the person who is able to achieve this.

this analogy is visible across the

different spheres a sportman does practice to hone his skills then one day she might shine at the olympics, a scientist keeps on experimenting even if previous experiment failed to see someday his invention being used by the masses or a government which burns within to produce shine for the citizens.

The idea of burning in order to shine runs in all the philosophies. whether we consider the centralities of fire in rituals of all religions or draw on the proverbs and analogies of philosophers. for example Indian philosophy lays down Purusharthas and Varnashrama through which one has to go to fulfill their Karma and repaying their debts

in order to attain moksha which is philosophical equivalent of quest for shining, when ordinary gets one with the absolute.

To impress upon this fundamental principle cultures develop methods to ensure the members follow the virtue. A hindi proverb says about students life " he should be giving efforts like a crow, having attention like a bird preying on fish, sleep less like a dog, eating less and staying away from home." thereby ingrainning the value of burning before shining through earned knowledge.

Such burning at societal level would create good for all. As individual members strive to do best they can in their respective domain and areas of interest, the cumulative

Shining would be stronger than the individual light. As the societies, communities and regions start excelling it creates healthy competition and setting of new benchmarks. The higher the collective benchmark for a country, the higher it shines in the global community. So, its observable that burning or metaphorical effort is a precondition for shining or metaphorical successful pursuit. But then ~~is~~ also why it is not universally followed?

It is because burning is not easy, it takes will to persist, innovate where stagnation comes and let go of other joys. Burning, moreover, can not be from outside but the desire to burn must come from the within. With the ongoing changes in the socio-

economic and political order the will to burn has even more diminished.

Today, a large section pursues the easy way. How to become rich in one month, how to get thin in one day and how to top the exam in one hour are some of the desires. And surely market economy does not fail here. They provide proverbial solutions for this in the way of some magic profession, secret medicine and secret devices.

But one thing is common among them - they do not work. There is no going around the process in order to reach the end.

Also, Along with system manipulators who try to find the novel ways through which

Shine can be shown without burning. These adaptations include influencers on social media, hackers, support mobilizers etc. But there too shine is short lived - at best that can be shine of candle but not the sun.

In this era, where our country wants to be a trillion dollar economy, wants to provide basic social opportunities like health, education to everyone and become vishwaguru of knowledge, These are not easy goals. They need going extraordinary and being persistent. For that we all 1.35 billion could burn together to produce a blinding shine whereby Bharat as a whole become glorious.

Being a woman is a terribly difficult trade  
since it consists principally of dealing with  
men

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Meera has turned 50 last week. She would be  
considered proverbial definition of success. She was  
throughout best in her class, attended the top  
college and thereafter took voluntary retirement  
to contribute towards home.

But Meera would not consider so.  
For her mere professional or academic achievements  
does not amount to a happy and fulfilled life.  
As a child she had to attend government  
school whereas her brother was admitted into  
best private school, she was supposed to  
cook and clean at home as it was part  
of being a girl.

Growing into youth did not make life

early either. It brought incessant eve-teasing and cat calling as a ~~pre~~ result of that her mobility was restricted. Even after starting to work her financial decisions like her life were revolving around the wishes of her husband. And now when her job, against her wish was sacrificed for the good of family she is totally dependent on the males of house, her husband and son.

Looking back at Meera's story she is a typical woman which is considered social ideal. But these ideals have been constructed by the men for the subjugation of women since the beginning of society. They vary across the cultures and countries but the underlying difficulty of being a woman is present everywhere.

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In this essay we would understand what makes women's life difficult due to male factors, what are the disabilities it gives birth to and possible remedies to alleviate their challenges.

whether men and women are same or different in physical, emotional, cognitive and intellectual aspects - this is a question which is debated since ages - till very recently only by men. So, unsurprisingly, the versions include men are suited to harder life thereby outside work and women are fragile and thereby suited to domestic life (Evolutionary view).

Earliest, philosophers, sociologists and economists all subscribed to this view. Other than view, ~~they also~~ they also had another thing in common - Gender. Gender is a socially

is a socially constructed identity which has been superimposed over the biological quality.

So, it is true that women and men are having biological differences but socially constructed norms in the form of gender, distinguish and defines the role of men and women. Through these roles, the women were deprived of their social, political economic and sometimes human equality.

In social sphere, before even taking birth ~~girl~~ girl child is killed in the womb because paternalistic society considers them to be liability. If she succeeds in taking birth she is considered inferior to male child (sons more preferred). The norms such as dowry make her an object which

can be given and taken. Social institutions such as Khat panchayats rule over them with iron hand. Even making them an object of honour by men is threatening for them. It on one hand ensures domestication of women because honor has to be protected. And on the other it may result into sati and honour killings. Because honor must be protected. Question is who honor is it? It does ~~not~~ appear like women are vessel of honor and men are the guard but in reality rather than honor that acts as a chain of bondage.

Similarly, women have difficult time dealing with men in political sphere. These are the institutions from where power flows and restricting the access to women

deprives them from making say in making decisions which affect them. men since beginning captured these centres and through not allowing women to represent or vote controlled women. for instance at the local bodies in India women are given 33% reservation but no effort for the same in legislative assemblies or in Parliament has been made where most important decisions for the country are made.

Even those women who manage to get elected are given inferior status and only rarely they succeed in reaching to the top level in the parties. thereby patriarchal mindset extends to controlling women in political spheres.

Having seen the difficulties of being women in social and political spheres let's see their challenges in economic spheres. women are

faced with discriminatory allocation of resources such as education, health, nutrition compared to their male siblings (Economic Survey) as a result they have a disadvantage even before entering the labour market. In India female labour force participation rate was at lowest in 2017 in last 47 years (PLFS Survey).

those working face sexual harassment in offices, reduced opportunities in promotions and often lesser wages compared to men for the same job. In the leadership positions men are given preference due to the notion that they are emotionally and physically more equipped (Homo social reproduction). further, their reproduction is seen as a hindrance by the male colleagues in the official workings.

therefore it is evident that being women in the world of men is not easy. So does it mean everything is lost ~~with~~ with no light at the end of tunnel?

fortunately, there is a fresh breeze of change which brings promise of equality and agency for women. Starting from our independence a wave of reforms have taken place. In political arena it includes universal adult franchise, reservation in local bodies among others. Thereby determining others election and partaking in the political process brought them in parity with other gender.

Similar progress in moral sphere is made which include banning child marriage.

prohibiting dowry, abolishing triple talaq among others. therefore, social status of women is given its due recognition as being equal to men.

In the economic arena the positive developments include, minimum wage Act which ensures equal pay, property right for hindu women at par with sons, POH Act to counter sexual harassment etc.

But among all these one more observation is visible - that dealing with men is not always difficult in order to be a woman. In absence of women in representation most of these were pushed by males. Recently social protest like #metoo and #NirbhayaJustice were equally supported by men. The 21st century

man is not the same as long existed. today men are equal in domestic chores, raising child and sharing in office space. It has been late but the current developments are promising for women empowerment.

Coming to meera, she ~~understands~~ faced hardships and disabilities due to men around her yet she also feels happy about the change around her. Her son helping daughter-in-law in housework is change from the house and female chief minister of her state are indicator of things to come. ~~in~~

India is a country which stands as a whole without divisions, distinctions and privileges for either gender would create enormous positive externalities.