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Test - Essay Test 2 [620302]

The pursuit of knowledge leads to the discovery of truth

Galileo Galilei pursued upon the work of Copernicus to prove that the solar ~~and~~ system is heliocentric i.e. revolves around the sun and not the moon.

His this pursuit of knowledge, happened despite the pushback from the church, which considered it to be anti-biblical and categorised ~~the~~ him as a heretic.

However, despite this opposition pursuit of knowledge by Galileo led him to the discovery of truth.

This is one of many examples which shows how pursuit of knowledge leads

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to the discovery of truth. In this essay we will look into how ~~the~~ pursuit of knowledge leads to discovery of truth and ~~to~~ how in absence of knowledge, truth remains elusive from us.

Taking up from where we left apart from Galileo, throughout history there have been many scientists who discovered truth through their pursuit of knowledge.

Be it Newton discovering gravity by digging deeper into the reason behind falling of an apple or Archimedes discovering the concept of buoyancy by ~~looking at a floating~~
Not only scientists but even philosophers



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have also found truth via the same path -
Be it Gautam Buddha renouncing his kingdom and going off to jungle in search of truth i.e. "reason behind human suffering" or George Bernard Shaw saying that "All great truth start as a blasphemy".

As in the beginning truth might look ~~to~~, feel and sound illogical, however when we undertake a long journey of pursuing more knowledge, we ultimately arrive at the destination called "TRUTH".

Even, great Indian philosophers and thinkers have said the same thing. Be it Lord Krishna telling Arjuna that Jana Jnana Marg [path of knowledge] is the path to

Meriana or Mohsha . The same philosophy
can also be seen in the rich tradition
of debating (shashtroth) in India.

Be it dialogue between Nachiketa and Lord
Yama about meaning of life? or between
Mandamunia and Adishankara . All these

debate and ~~f~~ back and forth was nothing
but a pursuit of knowledge to find out
the truth.

Even great explorers such as Captain Magellan
and Elcano ^(one of his officers) undertook first journey of
circumnavigation of Earth to prove find
the truth that Earth is round and
not flat . Today, ISRO has launched

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Chandrayaan 3 as a follow up to Chandrayaan 1 and 2 as a pursuit of knowledge to find the truth about the ^{extent of} presence of water on moon.

Even let alone study of moon, even if one needs to study our every own society we need to have pursuit of knowledge.

It was this desire that lead sociologist

MN Srinivas to study "Logic of Mysore"

which revealed the truth to him that the process of sanskritization makes caste system dynamic and not static as previously thought by the colonial scholars.

This desire, can also be seen in Dadabhai Naoroji's seminal work "Poverty and the unbritish rule" where he studied

British interactive economic model to
reveal the truth about "Drain of wealth"
from India to Britain.

Today, such kind of investigative work
can be seen in the form of Investigative
Journalism, where journalist try to
seek information to reveal the truth.

The release of Panama Papers and Paradise
Papers revealing a global network of
tax evasion by the high and mighty
can be attributed to this.

This desire to find truth has also
lead to evolution of human society
itself. Tribals and primitive humans



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used to attribute eclipses as a bad omen and disasters. such as flooding was seen as a sign of wrath of the gods. However, ^{after} centuries of pursuit of knowledge, today we know the exact scientific reasons behind the same.

Even if we look at our contemporary world, we can see several illustrations of the same. Be it research done by global institutions to call out the hoax that climate change is due to natural warming of the earth or audit

by CAG revealing several scams such as in NHAI, Commonwealth games etc.



In fact, the entire consultancy industry be it Mckinsey, Bain, BCG or the Big four audit companies or the credit rating agency such as Moody's their job is to find out the truth by pursuing the knowledge about the real real condition and financial situation of a company. Hence, economy and stock market runs on the basis of such pursuit.

Now having seen so many examples, of how pursuit of knowledge leads to truth, let us see how does not pursuing knowledge leads us away from the truth.



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Not pursuing knowledge, leads to stagnation of knowledge. For eg stagnation in political science would still have let us believe that king "has divine mandate to rule" and monarchy not democracy, would have been the dominant political system.

Further, it also leads to human biases in form of formulation of preconceived notions. For eg) Without pursuit of gender studies, we would still believe that women are inferior to men.

Just like Aristotle called "women as unfinished men" and compared relation between women and men as that to a master and a slave.

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Further, without the pursuit of knowledge, there is no rigorous testing and this leads to lack of depth in understanding.

Thus we won't be able to develop mental faculty needed for critical thinking.

Also, without such pursuit of knowledge we would keep on repeating the same mistake again and again. Even

Albert Einstein said that only a fool would expect a different outcome by trying the same thing again and again.

For example had India not reopened its Economy via [LP6 reforms] after analyzing the reason behind the Balance of Payment Crisis we would keep on



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going to the IMF for bailout again and
again Just like Pakistan.

Even dictatorial govern regime are
aware about the power of knowledge. So
they try to control knowledge in order
to hide out the truth from the public.
Such as chinese Communist Party censoring
chinese social media or Kim Jong Un keeping
North Korea closed and media highly
regulated.

Having seen the importance of pursuing
knowledge for seeking the truth. Let
us see how can we do so in our lives.

There can be no better quote than Steve Jobs
quote of "Stay hungry stay foolish". The



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~~child~~ childlike ~~curio~~ curiosity and hunger
for knowledge shall lead us to truth.

Further keeping our eyes and ears
open to our surroundings will help us
to learn from the world around us.

Also at the same time, inner reflection,
meditation and yoga will help us to
find knowledge and truth from our
inner self.

Keeping of all this in mind,
government has launched New Education
Policy to develop a critical thinking and

a hunger for the pursuit of knowledge.

After if ~~world~~ ^{Falschood} is a dark tunnel, then the
knowledge is the light coming from the
end of tunnel, following which we can
escape the tunnel and ~~come into~~ ^{reach} the truth
just like Galileo did.

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Every saint has a past & Every sinner a future

Lord Narada was walking by the forest, when a thief came and tried to rob him. However, Narada tried to talk and reason with him. This led to the robber doing penance and walk on the path of Sainthood. This person was none other than Valmiki, the great saint who wrote Ramayana.

On the other hand, in contemporary times there ~~is~~ is a Bollywood Actor, who in his younger days was a drug addict and also went into jail for illegal arms possession. However, after coming



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out of the jail, he did movie like Munna Bhai
MBBS and completely transformed himself
and his future. By this time, you must
have guessed that the actor is none
other than Sanjay Dutt himself.

These, two examples from
very different time zones and walks of
life shows that the adage "Every
saint has a past and every sinner a
future" has stood the test of the time

In this essay, we will further
explore this aspect both through examples
from other people's lives as well as what
can we learn from it. First let's
look into "How every saint has a
past".

Saints have parts too

Had someone met Ashoka the Great post the Kalinga war. He would have found a saint in the Emperor. The propagator of peace and dhamma. However, just a few years back, Ashoka was feared as a ruthless king, ready to battle and spill the blood for the expansion of his empire.

Similarly, another character a few millenia later by the name "Christopher Columbus" is treated as a saint. Many states in USA ~~is~~ celebrate "Columbus Day". However, one must not forget that

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aside from exploring ^{route to} America, he was also responsible for the genocide of thousands of native Americans.

Even today, the history is repeating itself in case of Winston Churchill. So is considered a hero and saint ~~for~~ by the west for his leadership in World War 2, ~~How~~ completely ignoring his part of wilfully ~~ignoring~~ abetting genocide of Indians during Bengal Famine of 1943.

Thus both history and contemporary times are replete with such examples. All these examples just point out to the fact that either saints were normal people or infact sinners (like Ashoka)

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before becoming saint or, ~~saints~~ people who we come across as saints often can have a sinful past [Churchill, Columbus].

Thus no one is perfect and ~~hence~~ hence one should go for critical analysis of actions of everyone including those whom we consider as saints.

It also points out to the fact that a person doesn't become saint overnight. Just like Gautama, the

penic did not become Buddha (The Enlightened one) overnight. ^{thus} Saints are basically ordinary people with ordinary past but extraordinarily determination to follow the righteous

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righteous path and not let their past impact their future.

Having said that just like as Saints have pasts, so do sinners have future. As even a sinner like Ashoka had a future when he renounced violence.

Sinners: Hope of a better future

Since we were on Ashoka and Buddha. Lets take first example from Buddhism itself.

When Buddha achieved enlightenment, a murderer visited Buddha, by the name Angulimala. He attacked Buddha, however Buddha calmed him down, took him as his student and he left the path of evil to become a monk.



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Similarly, even today we can see the same. Let us take one instance from the world of sports. Famous Australian cricketer Steve Smith was banned for a year for ball tampering during Australia's tour to South Africa. He later repented his actions and after the ban was over, he became the highest run scorer in the Ashes tournament of 2020.

Even, Mike Tyson who in his youth was part of criminal activities and also jailed later on, went on to become the heavy weight champion of Boxing.

These two examples show that redemption



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and mending of ways can lead to reform and hope of a better future for the sinner.

Even our present Justice system works on the same principle. It is based on reformation and not retribution. This

has led to Supreme Court coming out with the dictum of death penalty in "rarest of the rare case" in the case of Bachan Singh v/s the state of Punjab.

This hope of reformation of a sinner has also led to abolition of death penalty in more than 110 countries.

Thus if one is ready to accept his/her mistakes than they can begin a new life.

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Thus if one is ready to change themselves
even others acknowledge it and give that
person a chance to change. This cannot
be ~~be~~ illustrated in a better way
than coming back of Mrs. Indira Gandhi
back to power after the post Emergency
debacle. She understood that by imposing
emergency, she committed sin of jeopardising
democracy and hence was ready to
change herself. This effort was rewarded
by the people of India by giving her
another chance.

Even the big entrepreneurs such as Bill Gates,
Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg who some
might ~~can~~ think committed a sin of

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dropping out of ^{the} college at that time, redeemed themselves by successfully starting their own business ventures. Thus hard work, perseverence and strong willpower can even convert what might look sinful to a beacon of a hopeful future.

Sometimes, a person might not be sinful but society due to its own biases, stereotyping might consider them to be a sinner.

For example LGBTQ community, homosexuality was considered as a sin and even a crime under section 377. However, as society is becoming more aware, homosexuality has is being decriminalised across the world, as has already happened in India.

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The sometimes ~~low~~ communities who are
branded sinners be it homosexuals,
or Tribals branded criminals under
Criminal Tribes Act or lower caste ^{believed to be} ~~being~~
born in a lower caste due to sins of
previous lives. They need ~~to~~ not lose
hope for a brighter future. ~~They~~ as
with modernisation of society they
are no longer seen as sinners rather
the discrimination committed against
them is seen as a sin.

Thus having looked at both the past
of the saints and the future of the
sinner. Here are few parting concluding
words for the same.

Conclusion : Live in the Present

We have talked about past of saint and future of a sinner. But, the most important thread connecting the both is the present.

If a person tries to focus on his present and work upon it than he won't be ~~bogged~~ bogged down by the sins that he has committed in the ~~future~~ past. ~~He~~ At the same time he will also learn the lessons of his past. This will help him to drop the baggage of his past.

Thus whether a person becomes saint or continues to remain a sinner or again turns from saint to sinner depends on how he focuses & utilises his present.

As the old adage goes:-

Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery.
But present is a gift