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*BELIEVE IN POWER OF ARGUMENT RATHER THAN ARGUMENT OF POWER*

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**ANECDOTE**

**"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!"**

**"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!"**

**A simple argument by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg created ripples. What power, wealth of all nations combined couldn't do, power of argument did it.**

**Or,**

The **Pandavas** having been stripped of their wealth and kingdom through deceit are left with no option but to fight their own brothers and grandsire. The Pandava army rests its hopes on the valour of worthy Arjuna, whose military skills have no match. The war is about to begin and Arjuna asks Krishna to take the chariot to a place from where he can see all those assembled against him in war.

As he sees his gurus Drona and Kripa, his beloved grandsire Bhishma and his brothers the Kauravas, he falters and is gripped with misery. He refuses to fight saying he does not see any gain or happiness in the kingdom he gains, by killing his own brothers.. As Arjuna battles with his emotional turmoil. Krishna's guidance to Arjuna gives a practical solution to emerge out of this struggle unscathed.

**Or,**

**Angulimala was known for the garland of fingers that he severed from his victims and wore around his neck. "Brutal, bloody-handed, devoted to killing & slaying, showing no mercy to living beings.**

**As the story goes, the Buddha was staying in the region where Angulimala was on the loose. The Buddha went into town for alms, and when he had finished his meal, he took his bowl and walked along the road to where Angulimala was staying.**

Local farmers, shepherds, and cowherds warned the Buddha that groups of even ten, twenty, thirty, and forty men had been ambushed and killed by Angulimala. They urged the Buddha to turn back, but he did not. Resolutely, calmly, the Buddha walked in the direction.

Angulimala saw the lone monk pass by and gleefully determined to kill him. Yet as he ran toward the Buddha, the Buddha “willed a feat of psychic power such that Angulimala, though running with all his might, could not catch up with the Blessed One walking at normal pace.” Amazed by this display of power, Angulimala called out, “Stop,” The Buddha replied, “I *have* stopped, Angulimala. *You* stop.”

Angulimala asked, puzzled,

“While walking,  
you say, ‘I have stopped.’  
But when I have stopped  
you say I haven’t.  
I ask you the meaning of this:  
How have you stopped?  
How haven’t I?”

The Buddha replied,

“I have stopped, Angulimala,  
once & for all,  
having cast off violence  
toward all living beings.  
You, though,  
are unrestrained toward beings.  
That’s how I’ve stopped  
and you haven’t.”

Moved by the Buddha’s words, Angulimala determined to abandon violence. This *sutta* illustrates the potential of the Buddhist teachings to curtail humanity’s most horrific violent impulses and to transform even the most depraved of individuals into agents of non-violence.

Or

**"The story of the integration of the Indian states."**

With LAPSE OF PARAMOUNTSY, Patel, Nehru and Gandhi had approached the Viceroy, pleading him to aid them in the process of integrating the princely states, which was necessary so that India is not left in a state of Balkanisation and disruption.

On July 25, Mountbatten addressed the Chamber of princes with the aim of "tossing apples" into Patel's basket. "Look forward ten years, consider what the situation in India and the world will be then, and have the foresight to act accordingly," he said as he urged the princes to join the union.

It was the power of his arguments that most of the princely states which were contemplating independence agreed to join the Indian Union

**Brainstorming:**

- What do you mean by Power of arguments?
- What do you mean by Arguments of power?
- How significant has been the power of arguments vis a vis arguments of power? Illustrate with examples.
- How sometimes it becomes necessary to use power ?
- How to develop the power of arguments?

**What do we mean by Power of arguments?**

Ability to persuade other to act in the intended direction through a coherent series of reasons, statements, or facts intended to support or establish a point of view.

**What do you mean by Arguments of power?**

Weber defined power as the chance that an individual in a social relationship can achieve his or her own will even against the resistance of others. i.e degree of force to achieve a goal .

**How significant has been the power of arguments vis a vis arguments of power? Illustrate with examples**

Voice is life and silence is death in a democratic polity. The argumentative tradition, if used with deliberation and commitment, can be extremely important in resisting social inequalities and in removing poverty and deprivation.

India has been blessed with a long tradition of public arguments and intellectual heterodoxy. Constitutional democracy is fastened to public reasoning. Public reasoning provides the opportunity for the citizenry to take part in political discussion to influence public choice.

### Political

- Nobel Prize-winning economist **Amartya Sen in his work “Argumentative Indian”** maintains that democracy is about much more than elections, and that India's democracy flourishes amid a long **tradition of dispute, discussion and debate.**
- Our entire **freedom struggle was based on power of argument.** The mighty British empire foundations were uprooted through arguments may it be through speeches by our great leaders outside or inside legislative councils.
- While some north-eastern States still grapple with insurgency, Tripura has overcome it. How did it do that?
  - ✓ **Psychological interventions** were focussed on correcting the tribal person's negative perception about the state and the mainland, and inducing confidence in and credibility about the State's intentions.
  - ✓ **Brainstorming sessions** centred on unwinding the deeds, misdeeds and subversive designs of insurgency and to unmask its hypocritical conduct, promotion of monetary interests, the lavish lifestyle of the leaders in contrast to the abject living conditions of the rank and file, sexual exploitation of women cadre, forced induction of adolescents into the outfits and a game plan to keep the region in perpetual backwardness.
  - ✓ This **strategy was carried through the media, both print and electronic, art groups, intellectuals, and interactive seminars and discussions.**
  - ✓ The Governor and the Chief Minister, in the **course of their public programmes, sought to impress upon those misguided insurgents to see reason, return to the mainstream and be active stakeholders and participants in the well-being and prosperity** of the State and the people.

There was a good response to this. It brought back a number of them, including an entire group of the NLFT-NB in 2006 along with a cache of arms

#### International relations:

- Panchsheel policy, Gujral doctrine, NAM
- Role of India with respect to Korean war, Congo conflict, Suez canal crisis etc.

#### Economic

- Farmers from Punjab, Haryana, UP agitated for several months, based their whole movement on power of argument rather than violence or power. Ultimately they were successful in total recall of farm bills. **Powerless farmers won on basis of strong arguments.**
- **Temporary peace clause was made at the WTO Bali conference in December 2013.** It stipulated that no country would be legally barred from food security programs for its own people even if the subsidy breached the limits specified in the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. This win of reasoning, arguments by developing countries over power of developed country.

#### Social

- **The entire socio religious reforms have been based on power of arguments**, persuading people to give up social evils rather than coercion.
- Behaviour change for example as done in **Swachh Bharat abhiyan**, was proof of power of argument. Convincing people about effects of open defecation rather than imposing through power.
- **Dalit Panther movement of 1970's** in Maharashtra was also following the action repertoires such as debates, deliberation, street plays etc.

#### Environmental

**Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA)** is an Indian social movement spearheaded by **native tribals (Adivasis), farmers, environmentalists and human rights activists** against a number of large dam projects across the Narmada River. The mode of campaign was based on power of argument included: includes **court actions, hunger strikes, rallies and gathering support from notable film and art personalities.**

There is, however, a **serious question to be asked** as to whether the **tradition of arguments and disputations** has been confined to an **exclusive part of the Indian population**—perhaps just to the **members of the male elite.**

It would, of course, be hard to expect that argumentational participation would be uniformly distributed over all segments of the population, but **India has had deep inequalities along the lines of gender, class, caste and community** (on which more presently). The **social relevance of**

the argumentative tradition would be severely limited if disadvantaged sections were effectively barred from participation.

Secondly, the argumentative tradition would be meaningful if it will be informed, backed by facts and not driven by parochial interest and ideologies. Else will widen the socio-economic cleavages in the society.

#### How sometimes it becomes necessary to use power ?

- Operation Police action with respect to integration of Hyderabad
- Surgical strike in Pakistan
- Efforts to counter terrorism
- Immediate actions against extreme communal outfits so as to cripple their capacity to disrupt law and order.
- Since persuasion is time taking process , strict law enforcement is required to address the crisis/evils in immediate situation

Hence the need of hour is to ensure successful persuasion i.e. to “make someone do or believe something by giving them a good reason / argument to do it or by talking to that person and making them believe it”.

There are three traits present in a successful persuasion through arguments , which link directly back to Aristotle’s foundational work

- Honesty (Character or Ethos)
- Logic (Reason or Logos)
- Purpose (Emotion or Pathos)

Or:

How to succeed in persuasion? i.e. to be a successful persuadee

Need to build Emotional intelligence :

- Self-awareness
- Self motivation
- Self regulation
- Empathy
- Social skills

**To win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill.’ A skilful strategist is not violent, he does not humiliate his adversary. He leads his adversary to transform himself and to recognize his inferiority. He thus has no need to use power .**