

---

## A HEALTHY LOYALTY IS NOT PASSIVE AND COMPLACENT, BUT ACTIVE AND CRITICAL

---

### ANECDOTE

1. In **Mahabharata**, **Karna** who was always ill-treated, even by his biological mother, found **true respect and friendship in the company of Duryodhan**. This made him loyal to Duryodhan through all his actions. So much so that he **didn't question any of Duryodhan's decisions and silently supported him** even if they were wrong like **Draupadi's humiliation in open court or trying to kill the Pandava**. This attitude of not being critical and being passive ultimately led to **Duryodhan's downfall**.

On the other hand, **Krishna** was a friend of **Arjun**, and he did not show passiveness or complacency in his loyalty towards him. He was **always active and critical** when the need arose. For instance, at the beginning of the war when Arjun dropped his weapons seeing he had to fight his relatives, **Krishna did not give him false comfort but was extremely critical of him for turning away from his duty and responsibility**. Which eventually resulted in Pandavas' victory and end of Kauravas.

OR,

2. In the **Indian national struggle**, the nationalist who were completely loyal to the nation and were devoted for the independence of the country, constantly questioned each other. For example, **Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhi were bitter critics of each other, Bose and Gandhi were critical of each other, Patel and Nehru had sharp differences**, etc. But despite it all, they were **all loyal towards the nation**. It is the result of this active and critical loyalty towards the country that India not only got independence from the British but also emerged as a vibrant and stable democracy.

On the other hand, if we look at the example **of Hitler's Germany**, all his loyalists were **uncritical and blind followers**, who **never questioned any of his excesses**. Result of this uncritical loyalty was seen by the entire world with the end of Hitler and huge destruction of German society and economy post World War II.

OR,

3. **Plato and Aristotle** are generally regarded as the two greatest figures of Western philosophy. For some 20 years Aristotle was Plato's student. **Although Aristotle revered his teacher, his philosophy eventually not only departed from Plato's in important respects, but he also criticized Plato's philosophy**, wherever he felt it was

wrong. For instance, According to Aristotle, it is true that property leads to corruption, but property also has many constructive implications. It's the source of motivation, it gives a sense of achievement, it's also a source of charity. Hence Aristotle suggests that it would not be a good idea to deprive ourselves from the virtues of property.

He very strongly disapproves of Plato's theory of communism of family. He considers that Plato's ideas are not progressive, rather they can take us back to the barbaric ages. He says that though it is true that family leads to nepotism but as an institution family has a lot of importance for society as well for a person. Family is a source of emotional stability. **Therefore Aristotle, despite being most favorite and loyal disciple of Plato, has criticized Plato's suggestions in stronger words, considering "the remedies are worse than the disease itself."**

**OR,**

4. The Mauryan Empire, famous for being the first pan-Indian empire, an empire that covered most of the Indian region, spanned across central and northern India as well as over parts of modern-day Iran. This foundation of this great empire was laid down by **Chandra Gupta Maurya** with the help of Chanakya. **Chanakya was the greatest teacher that he could have had but he was also a bitter critic of him**, who pushed him every time to rectify all his mistakes and become a better version of himself.

On the other hand, **Sakadala**, Prime Minister of Dhananand **did not question or stop his emperor** when he insulted and humiliated Chanakya or whenever he committed any wrong. Sakadala was no less efficient than Chanakya; his passive loyalty and reluctance to speak truth hastened the end of Nanda's, whereas critical and active loyalty of Chanakya made a boy, who was sold to a hunter to tend cattle, greatest emperor of the time.

**OR,**

5. **Alauddin Khilji** had a confidant **Malik Kafur**, a Hindu convert and prominent slave-general of the Delhi Sultanate. Khilji loved him dearly, in fact he was given the charge to carry out almost all Khilji's expeditions in the South. When he returned, he **acted as a loyal accomplice who never questioned Khilji** and always was praising him. But what he did was **poison the emperor against all his relatives** and this led to the **downfall of the dynasty after his death**.

On the other hand, if we look at the relationship of **Bahram Khan, Abul Fazl or any of the Navratnas'** with Akbar then we will realize that they were never afraid to tell him what was right or wrong. It was due to such **active and critical loyalists that Akbar** could achieve heights not only in administration but also in various other spheres.

## **BRAINSTORMING-**

- **What is loyalty?**
- **What is the significance of loyalty in our lives?**
- **Why can it not be passive and complacent?**
- **What would active and critical loyalty be like?**
- **The journey from passive to active loyalty**

### **What is loyalty?**

Loyalty is a **positive feeling of commitment, devotion, faithfulness, obligations and allegiance to someone or something.** The loyalty in relations between people is essential to the **healthy functioning of your society.** It boosts **cooperation, makes people feel safe and secure, provides social stability, and ensures that they can trust** others.

**Woodrow Wilson once said, “Loyalty means nothing unless it has at its heart the absolute principle of self-sacrifice.”**

The **story of Panna Dhai** resonates very much with the saying of Wilson. She was a nursemaid to Udai Singh II, the fourth son of Rana Sanga. **After the death of Rana Sanga, Rani Karnavati committed Jauhar, and Udai Singh was left in care of Panna.** She was loyal to the kingdom of Mewar and to **prove her loyalty she gave the ultimate sacrifice** which made her name to be written in golden letters in history. When Udai was attacked by his uncle Banvir, Panna Dai sacrificed her own son's life to save him and the future of Mewar. **This is an example of active loyalty, which remains consistent irrespective of the situation.**

Loyalty isn't grey. It's black and white. You're either loyal completely, or not loyal at all. You can't be loyal only when it suits you because **a passive and complacency loyalty is nothing but convenience.** It is the kind of loyalty which led to the downfall of the greatest of emperors. It is the kind of loyalty which **Brutus had towards Caesar**, where he betrays Caesar, in the play Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare. This is an example where loyalty is passive and based on convenience.

### **What is the significance of loyalty in our lives?**

**“Loyalty is what makes us trust, Trust is what makes us stay, Staying is what makes us love, and love is what gives us hope.”**

**Relationships, whether romantic, familial, social, or any other kind, depend on loyalty. Being honest, encouraging, respectful, truthful, and appreciative might help to cultivate it. It can foster closer relationships and social support. All relationships require it because without it, you would be unable to put your trust in the other person. Since you wouldn't be able to trust**

anyone and society wouldn't work without it, therefore, it is also essential for human civilization.

Loyalty is a virtue which fosters many other virtues in human beings, such as-

- **Regularity:** Loyalty makes the person consistent or regular. For instance, a loyal student will always attend classes regularly and will do his work timely.
- **Discipline Development:** The people who are loyal are also disciplined because they do their work with full genuine interest and remain focused. Hence, they do the work in a disciplined way.
- **Self-improvement:** Loyal people are also loyal to their emotions, beliefs, and needs, etc. and are more responsible. Hence, a feeling of self-improvement grows in them.
- **Understanding of Priority:** Loyal people will be able to understand their priority and accordingly will set their priority.
- **Development of Trust:** A loyal person will be trusted by people around him, which will foster positive conscience collective in the society. With the development of mutual trust in the society, it can progress towards a more peaceful state and it in fact might help in reducing crimes in the society.
- **Improve Relationships:** Being loyal, a person will make relationships with their familial and social surroundings stronger and healthier.
- **Develop courage:** A loyal person can do anything for the person to whom he/she is loyal. While a weak person neither has a loyal spirit nor can support anyone.
- **Success and Recognition:** Loyal people get recognition and success. History is full of such examples ranging from Aristotle to Panna Dhai to Bairam Khan, whose names are written in golden letters for their loyalty.

### Why can it not be passive and complacent?

**Passive and complacent loyalty is based on convenience, whereas true and faithful loyalty is active and critical.** The friend who is always there with you, claims to be loyal but never points out your mistakes and shortcomings, not only prevents you from rectifying them but also makes you repeat the same again and again. Such a friend is not better than a foe.

One such example that comes to my mind is that of Vidur, prime minister of the Kuru Kingdom in Mahabharat. Vidur was one of the wisest and ablest people of Hastinapur, who knew that Kauravas were doing wrong but he did nothing to stop him. There is indeed no doubt about his

loyalty but his complacency resulted in wiping of the entire clan of Kauravas. What's the point of having such a passive loyalist?

**One similar example of passive and complacent loyalty in Indian history is of the period of national emergency.** During this time, the then Prime Minister and her son committed excesses against the opposition and common population. Rule of law was taken into hands; an attempt was made to control judiciary by meddling with appointment of 'Chief Justice of India'.

Despite it all the then cabinet ministers, who were no doubt loyal to the Prime Minister and ruling party, did nothing to stop her or to criticize her actions. Result of this passive loyalty was seen by the entire nation, with Congress losing elections not only at the centre but also in several states. Also, this event has been written in black ink in the history of India.

**Political loyalty, which is based on freebies and transferrable, not on ideologies is dangerous for the entire nation.** This is passive and complacent loyalty which changes according to benefits, it can go to whoever offers better freebies to a specific voter base. But imagine the impact of such marketable loyalty on the future of the country, where anyone with muscle and money power can buy it. [example of media](#)

**In International relations also, the loyalty of Pakistan towards China is a prime example of the passive and complacent loyalty.** Despite China's horrible treatment of Uighur Muslims, it has always chosen to keep its eyes closed. When the entire world was criticizing China for its in humanitarian treatment of pro-democracy protests in Hong-kong, Pakistan made a choice of turning its face away from it. This passiveness in its friendship with China will one day lead to great disaster within the country itself.

### What would active and critical loyalty be like?

**Active loyalty is based on a belief in common values.** It knows to even differ in opinion when something is wrong, it does not always need to be likeness of opinions. **Loyalty in relationships is not only active but also critical.** Where we don't only tell people what they want to hear but also do constructive criticism, because loyalty goes beyond appeasing. It includes thinking good for a person in the long run.

**For example:**

- ✓ **A truly loyal citizen will never fail to criticise the government when it's failing to fulfill its mandate.**
- ✓ **A truly loyal teacher would never fail to give constructive criticism to its students**
- ✓ **a truly loyal Prime Minister would never fail to point out faults in the administration of his king**
- ✓ **a loyal friend will point out negative points in your personality because he wants you to see you grow.**

Therefore, active loyalty is a virtue which has truthfulness and faithfulness as its foundation.

### The journey from passive to active loyalty

- Align basic common values
- Focus on earning confidence and trust
- Be open to giving and accepting constructive criticism
- Emotional engagement/ shared history
- System of reward and punishment can never buy active loyalty.
- It is ingrained from a young age and grows with time.
- Treat people with respect and kindness, which gives them a sense of safety and affection.

One of the most significant moral traits that both humans and animals possess is loyalty. Nowadays, it is quite difficult to find someone who is actively loyal, as people pretend to be loyal, but their passive loyalty can in fact be more dangerous. Active and critical loyalty is not only beneficial for the one to whom someone is loyal, but it also gives mental satisfaction and peace to the person who is loyal. Passive loyalty, on the other hand, is no more than digging graves for the person. History is full of examples of disasters of passive and uncritical loyalty, one such being passive and uncritical followers of Hitler. The entire world is testimony to the end that he faced.

So, Harold Laski was correct in saying that “the healthy loyalty is not passive and complacent but active and critical.”

Only for nagendraiput9753@gmail.com