The Power to Aspire

Ultimately, the only power to which man should aspire is that which he exercises over himself

* Elie Wiesel

In this world, we can see power everywhere throughout our lives. We see it throughout historical figures, narrative characters, and even in ourselves. When we see the news, fictional novels, or history books, we see many characters that gain power and change character in a negative way. Because power makes one have more control over others, these characters are motivated to gain more power. This power leads the character to achieve their goals and resolve conflicts, ultimately resulting to crave for more power. The cycle repeats, and the character changes lead them to their downfall. Therefore, the only power that man should be able to desire should be one that they regularly exercise over himself, just as Elie Wiesel mentions in the quote above.

One historical character that fits in this power-hungry loop is Adolf Hitler. In a historical perspective, Adolf Hitler was a man who had great ambitions and goals. He started to accomplish his goals at a faster rate as he gained power and authority in the German government, and this motivated him to gain more power. As he gained power over Germany and the Europe Continent, he has become one of the most powerful historical figures in that generation, and he could do things that no one thought was possible such as the eradication of the European Jews. However, Hitler’s seeking for power was also the reason that brought himself to his downfall. As he keeps seeking more power, the Allies depended on each other even more. When Hitler tried to seek for power that he had never exercised, it leads to his downfall.

In narrative prose fiction, Macbeth is another figure that fell to his demise because he seeks for power which he did not practice before. When he murders King Duncan to gain more power, it changes his character. Macbeth becomes more irrational and impulsive with his actions, as he tries to protect his power. He has never practiced the power of a king before in his life and combined with the character change, it results of him becoming a tyrant. If he aspired to be a loyal knight of Scotland, which was the power he was practicing before, he may have been more successful with his life.

Power is like a cursed candy. The more you crave it, the more it is bad for you. This is especially shown with historical characters such as Hitler and fictional characters such as Macbeth. When they try to gain power that they did not practice, they faced many consequences. Instead of trying to gain power because of ambitions and goals, we should try to gain power by our hard work and efforts. One can maintain this kind of power because of their own skills and respect from others. Aspiring power that results from your practice can make your life rich and successful.