These were the People

Every generation has its ‘superhumans’ – the people who achieved that wasn’t perceived to be humanly possible. I want you to take a minute and think of a single person from this decade who comes to your mind when you think of a superhuman.

Was it Elon Musk? Was it Jeff Bezos? Or was it Donald Trump (well he did prove that *anyone* can be POTUS didn’t he?)?

This post is a small list of people who I consider to have lived a life that could be considered as ‘super’ extraordinary. I will keep updating this list when I get a chance to.

# 1. Freddie Mercury

Born with buck-teeth, arguably the best voice the world of rock n’ roll has ever seen and a phenomenal performer with whom even Michael Jackson wouldn’t have competed, Freddie Mercury comes on the top of this list. Queen is one of my favourite bands in history and the lead-singer’s, not *the leader,* story is one filled with controversies, arguments and *awesomeness.* He faced challenges we cannot fathom in this day and age – he married early but realised his true sexuality later, he was a homosexual, *or bisexual as he told the public*, and the victim of the homophobia prevalent in the 70s, he brought in the very concept of making the audience to actually *participate and not just stand listening* in a concert, he was an outsider in Britain and he conquered the whole music industry. His life went on with a spree of sexual relations with *more than a few* men, alcoholism and revolutionary performances. Ultimately his brilliant career ended with him announcing that he was ailed with the wretched disease of AIDS. He died shortly after the announcement due to the disease. Queen continues today without Mercury and his flamboyant persona.

His journey taught me the extremely important fact that creativity, *with a dash of craziness,* is the most important thing you must have if you want to leave a mark in history, *even if it means that you seem weird to the whole world.*

# 2. Bobby Fischer

The greatest chess player ever, before the computer era began, Bobby Fischer was not a force that you would want to be in conflict with. Extremely innovative and calculative in his games, he remains till date regarded as *"the greatest genius to have descended from the chess heavens"* as said by the great Mikhail Tal. His 13 year old self defeated GM Donald Byrne in what is known as the *Game of the Century.* Can you fathom this sentence? A 13 year old’s chess game regarded as the Game of the Century by hundreds of chess grandmasters! This was just the start of his career. He held the youngest to become grandmaster record for a whopping *thirty-three years* and that was before computers could be used as an aid for chess study. His growth as a prominent figure continued till he becoming the world champion in 1972: defeating the goliath Boris Spassky and ending the Russian hegemony over chess championships.

Here is where the story becomes ‘super’ extraordinary. He was most probably a schizophrenic and had an extremely erratic behaviour – he once during the world championship match demanded the match to be shifted to a closed locker room because “*the audience and the camera noises were too loud”* and refused to play frequently when his highly specific conditions of play weren’t met. He was anti-Semitic and regarded as a racist although his own mother was Jewish. He disappeared from the public eye after his world championship match and did not reappear for 20 years during which he lost his world championship by default. He fled USA in 1992 because he was issued an arrest warrant for non-compliance with the government and became an émigré. He was seen, arrested for holding an invalid passport, in Japan in 2004 after which he was offered residence in Iceland where he died in 2008. Even after his death he did not find peace, his remains were exhumed for a legal battle over his property by his supposed daughters.

Bobby was the literal example of the famous expression *crazy genius*. To be regarded as the greatest player to have played the widely revered game of chess is what makes me stand in awe of his amazing story.