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Courage: thy name, Mumbaikar?

A week after the blast, as I sat up by the window with a mug of hot coffee and watched the rain hit down the window panes, I heard the sirens warn for a moment of silence. I ran to the altar, knelt down and prayed for all the departed souls and those lying helpless on hospital beds. Tears trickled down my cheeks as I remembered the devastating sights I viewed on television a week ago.

As I sat in silence then, with not much work at hand, I thought to myself; how could a nation produce such chivalrous men, with undefeatable pride and honour? It was time to pen down an anthem, unlike one for the nation, but this time an anthem specially dedicated to our high-spirited Mumbaikars.

Has anyone ever come across a city as strong as ours? God forbid the same act of cowardice had struck any other state of our country; they would not have walked out of their homes for weeks together. Their government would have probably called for a bandh. Unlike others, the Mumbaikars not just had the will, the courage, and the guts to rise up and gasp for breath but to pick those disfigured bodies in their arms and run helter-skelter trying to save others as well. The citizens still picked up each broken part of their hearts and put it in one whole just to stand as one in Unitarianism against terror. It was that very night that the citizens of Mumbai returned back to normalcy. There lies in every Mumbaikar an extraordinary potential that makes them stand a cut above the rest.

It was after a long time in Mumbai's history, as far as I can recollect, I saw people run haphazardly trying

to help one another in ways they could. In a jiffy, it all happened-with one big trundle, the white smoke showed high in the air as though it was calling the attention of men at battle and in no time there was a chaos as rivers of blood streamed down those compartments that were ripped apart.

Busy Mumbaikars had somehow come to a standstill. What cowards were they who stuck the lifeline of the nation! Who says it's not easy to conquer such works? It was just a piece of cowardice. They have no guts to come ahead and speak out in public. Their works are not acceptable, hidden and forbidden. This attack may have been created just to harm, ridicule and humiliate but for us it has done the exact opposite. The strong wind somehow failed to move even a single leaf.

Being an NRI, I had always learnt about my country across the seas. The people of Mumbai never begin with retaliation. Yes, at first there is a debate on the issue, the precautions that should have been taken and were not, the losses suffered and so on. Yet, there is a pause to this and they pursue further, suspect, inspect and finally punish.

It has been over a month now since that day of genocide. Everywhere yet the families mourn the death of their loved ones. O yes, who can forget how brutally all this happened. It's not all that easy to forgive and forget. Day after day, the threat seems to get more obvious but the reactions of common man seems to be fearless.

Mumbai has always stood as one; be it the riots, the floods or the recent terrorist attack. Bombs and dynamites can kill persons and can change lives into vegetables but that's just physically, mentally there's a lot we have to prepare to face.

But the fact that we keep praising Mumbai for its high-spirited men may someday be taken for granted. This may lead to bloodshed once again. Ever since the recent attacks, the people of great Mumbai have portrayed themselves as citizens having bodies of iron and nerves of steel. The threats no more seem to give them the shivers. It is inhuman to get use to such blasts where human lives are the main target. The citizens have developed the wrong kind of psychological thinking towards this terrorist attack.

It is just and sensible enough when a country stands as one single body in times of pain and anguish. But if one looks at Mumbai in its present form then definitely one would feel that they can live with what is happening around them and would not really be afraid to face another attack like this in the near future. Man has of late started reacting like a machine. If something comes as a hurdle in his way, he pauses for a second or too and then continues working again.

This should not be so. What the harm in being what you are? If one feels his role is to mourn, he should. If one feels he has to wear sack cloth with ashes on his head, he should. If one feels he has to retaliate and take revenge, he should. For all of us are human, made of the same piece of flesh and blood all having the same fragile heart; that jumps for joy and cries in pain.

It indeed depends on every individual on how they carry out the issue now on. Some of them may feel patriotic enough to fight on behalf of others while some may feel it isn't their business as they weren't affected in the crisis. All of us irrespective of caste, creed or culture should be cautious enough now on. Right to freedom, right to speech, right to express were some of the rights we were all fighting for a few years ago. It's now high time we learn when and where exactly we have to imply these rights.

I have always believed in the saying United We Stand Divided We Fall. It is definitely true, if we have unity amongst ourselves, if we really practice fraternity and equality we will be able to conquer the fiercest of battles. With power comes a bundle of responsibilities. Fighting terrorism alone; everyone knows it's impossible. Everyone knows that terrorism is a network of workers working towards the same goal. Their strength is as good as a nation's defense force. But there is nothing that can stop us from building a network of operations against

them. We just cannot push the responsibility onto someone wholly and solely. We cannot say that it's the police force that is caught napping all the time nor can we say every single politician is corrupt. It's time we change our mindsets and erase such attitudes and thoughts from our societies and reach out a helping hand for it is every little drop of water that forms a mighty ocean.

If all of us contribute a little of our understanding, abide by the rules, cooperate with officers on duty and prevent foreseen events from happening the security and stability of the country will mark a rapid revolution. There's a lot we all can contribute for where there is a will there is a way. All we need to do is put our best foot forward. It is We who have to take the first stand if we really want to be a part of it. We all should know that individually it is I who has the liberty to say yes to my freedom, it is I who has a complete say against terrorism and it is I and only I who can revolutionize not only my own country but the whole world as well.

Our country has a common thread of unity that binds us all together, a straight union born from the word Mumbaikars. We just have to live up the name!!!!