



Moral courage

„daily life“

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Moral courage

Definition:

Moral courage is the courage to take action for moral reasons despite the risk of adverse consequences. Courage is required to take action when one has doubts or fears about the consequences. Moral courage therefore involves deliberation or careful thought. Reflex action or dogmatic fanaticism do not involve moral courage because such impulsive actions are not based upon moral reasoning. Moral courage may also require physical courage when the consequences are punishment or other bodily peril.

Why is the world lacking in moral courage?

Moral courage is the willingness to take a potentially costly moral action simply because it is your duty to do so, or “the right thing to do.” It is acting in spite of the personal consequences because of the harm that can be prevented or good provided to others. Moral courage is what turns moral judgment into moral action.

We make moral decisions based on duties and consequences. When people are condemned for their moral decisions, it is largely because they did not recognize duties or because they miscalculated consequences to themselves and others.

Most people calculate consequences in moral decisions, unless those calculations are suppressed by passion or anger. Often people neglect to consider duties, especially when consequences to them are significant. Duties arise typically from rights and justice considerations. Jury duty arises because people have the right to a trial by jury. Or a moral intervention may be required in order to see that people are treated fairly in a situation.

How important is moral courage in today's society?

But in today's society, even though people know things are wrong, many still choose to accept things as they are. Only a small group choose to do the right thing and do it right. We can just see it in our daily lives and I am sure everyone might have experienced a situation where their moral courage is tested and they have to choose to do or say the right thing or just ignore it.

Some still choose to ignore and just carry on with their own lives even though they know something is wrong. Even though technology and science has enabled humans to work easier and smarter but I feel that the human nature and mind have remained stagnant or maybe even dwindled even though technology has brought society to a state where our grandfathers might never have imagined. Maybe today's media and glamour of making lots of money have 'corrupted' the present generation and the growing kids that moral courage is less important as compared to the means to making it big. Maybe is not just money but also the fear of failure. One thing we want to mention is the term YOLO (you only live once) which have been quite popular recently. Some use it to justify the things they do and use it as a principle of how they live. I feel it's quite alright because it's really true that you live once. But this does not mean you just try everything because that will be accounted to recklessness. This means that we can live via this principle but not at the expenses of betraying our conscious and moral values. When a situation arises that involves a challenge to your internal moral compass, it's an opportunity for you to reflect and make a conscious choice about your actions. Mindfulness is not a magic potion that transforms you into an all-knowing and all-wise being, but is a practical skill that can help rally the courage to live in alignment with your values and beliefs.

DAILY LIFE

If you asked someone if they would risk their life to save someone they love, most people would say without hesitation, “yes of course!” But when it comes to everyday situations, such as standing up for a mistreated colleague or taking a position against gossip, most of us would pause and if we are honest, say, “it depends.”

Topics

- Discrimination
- Power imbalance
- Breach of sense of justice
- Mobbing & violence

Types

- Defend oneself -> de-escalate the situation through verbal action
- Intervene -> help people in need
- Stand up for something -> send a signal

Emotions

- Social bravery
- Anxiety
- Sense of urgency
- Self-confidence

Situations

- Accidents -> medical treatment/first aid
- Repression -> abstract the causer

Role of moral courage in the daily life

For the most people, the need for physical courage is rare. But the moral courage is tested almost every day. Being honest at the risk of disapproval, lost income or a maimed career; being accountable when owning up to a mistake can get us in trouble, making tough decisions and demands with kids at the cost of their affection, being fair when we have the power to be otherwise, and following the rules while others get away with whatever they can – these things take moral courage, the inner strength to do what's right even when it costs more than we want to pay.

The sad fact is that people with moral courage rarely get medals. Instead, they risk ridicule, rejection and retaliation. Yet this sort of courage is the best marker of true character and a life the children can be proud of.