

Of Competition

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Abstract

A true sportsman appreciates the opponent for his expertise. A successful player knows well that expertise can never be achieved overnight. It needs untiring practice. It demands dedication. Nothing can be achieved instant. Rome was not built in a day. The Romans know it. A lazy person knows it not. He never joins in the competition.

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Introduction

Creative writing is based more on manifestation rather than on expression. It does not inform, rather it reveals. So it bears no reference. The best creative writing is critical, and the best critical writing is creative. This article is an outcome of thinking about creative writing meant for a general readership. As such, I have adopted a free style methodology so that everyone can enjoy the pleasure of reading. As you might know, Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the immortal essayist, wrote many essays namely 'Of Love', 'Of Friendship', 'Of Ambition', 'Of Studies', and so on. The multiple-minded genius correctly pointed out that all the words of the dictionary can be used as themes for essays. But little has been done since his death to continue or finish his monumental task. Bacon's unique individual style of presentation ignited my imagination and encouraged me to write creative essays as a method of relieving a wide range of emotions through catharsis.

Article

Competition is the activity or condition of striving to gain or win something by defeating or establishing superiority over others. Example: There is fierce competition between banks.

It is an event or contest in which people take part in order to establish superiority or supremacy in a particular area e.g., "a beauty competition".

It is the person or people over whom one is attempting to establish one's supremacy or superiority. It implies the opposition. For example: I walked round to check out the competition.

It is a situation in which someone is trying to win something or be more successful than someone else. For example: Competition for jobs is intense.

It is an organized event in which people try to win a prize by being the best, fastest, etc. e.g., a swimming/chess competition.

It is the person or people trying to be better than. For example: The competition on the track looked fierce and her heart sank.

It is an activity done by a number of people or organizations, each of which is trying to do better than all of the others. For example: Competition for the job was fierce.

Competition is also the activity of a sport in which each of the people or teams is trying to win, or a particular event at which this activity happens. For example: Few of the players on the team were experienced in international competition.

Competition is also a situation in which the various organisms living in the same area try to compete for a limited supply of food, water, space, etc.

It is the situation in which people or businesses are trying to be more successful than each other, for example by making more sales in a market. For example: There has always been competition between the auto manufacturers.

Competition helps to flourish. It helps to be more active. If current road is closed, it discovers new avenue to realise the objective ear-

ly. If the new avenue is better than the old one then the old avenue is replaced by the new one. Here lies the unexpected good outcome of competition.

Thus it finds new avenue bypassing existing one. It helps to invent or discover. It manifests full potentiality.

Competition is good. It encourages. It inspires. It escorts to success. In contrast, unhealthy competition is too bad. It destroys relation. It gives birth to enmity. It separates. It causes hatred. It causes mishap.

Sometimes the opponent can murder even. As such they say a wise enemy is far better than a fool. The wise will insult in presence of all but the learned will never murder or mix poison in the food to kill the opponent at least. The learned will tackle the opponent either by politically or legally or both but never through evil method i.e., illegally.

The opponent may either be dangerous or timid. He may be brilliant or fool. Thus in the light of these four personality traits the whole rival population may broadly be classified into four different categories.

The first category is both dangerous and brilliant.

The second category is both dangerous and fool.

Such type of person tries to give trouble to the opponent but suffers more than causing sufferings to others. This happens since the person is basically a fool. A fool cannot befool others rather he befools himself. Here lies the tragedy of a fool.

The third category is both timid and brilliant.

Here the brilliant person cannot prosper due to timidity. He is a coward. The proverb goes, "Cowards die many times before their deaths". He cannot take any kind of risk. He is afraid of competition. He avoids competition. He is satisfied what he gets or what he possesses. He considers that it is his allotment destined by the Almighty God. As such he cannot dishonour the Almighty. He believes in fate. No risk no gain implies high risk high gain. But he cannot think it due to timidity. He wants to gain cent percent without taking even a single one percent risk which is next to impossible. He always hesitates. He always vacillates. He proceeds one step ahead. In the very next moment he steps back twice. The net result is retardation.

The fourth category is both timid and fool.

They are the worst of the mankind. They are deprived proletariat and large in numbers. They die unpaid. They die unfed. They die unwept. They die unsung. And they die unknown as well like nameless thousands who built the pyramids. These nameless are simply numbers to the bourgeois. The communist agitates for this

deprivation by the haves for the have-nots.

Now on the basis of these two personality traits viz., dangerous and brilliant the first category, again, may be classified into three different categories.

The first type is dangerously brilliant.

Here talent has been highlighted and simultaneously defamed by the adverb dangerously.

The second type is brilliantly dangerous.

Here the person is basically dangerous and talent intensifies its destructive power immensely.

The former is better than the second one since the former is guided by brain more than power.

The second one is dangerous more. His aim is to destroy. Through destruction he enjoys sadistic pleasure.

The third type is both dangerous and brilliant. He possesses the two traits equally or nearly equally.

He is the most powerful among all rivals. He cares none. He dares nobody. Everybody is afraid of him. He knows it. He enjoys it with pride.

A brilliant person may be genius. He may be diverted as well. Such a diverted genius may be misguided. In course of time he may be a misguided missile. It seems, unguarded childhood coupled with unshaded infant render an innocent soul to attain this evil trait. He is so cursed.

Thus degree of competition depends on these personality traits. These traits manifest the actual state and status of the concerned person at a particular point of time. Obviously, both sound body and sound mind are the main controller of any competition.

Competition may be with friends or foe. With a friend it is friendly or healthy competition. Here competition is for the sake of competition only. Both enjoy it. It is merely for enjoyment e.g., consumption of food, swimming, skipping, running, etc. In contrast, in case of competition with the foe the opponent tries to harm so that the person cannot take part in the competition in fear or wounds him during the occurrence of event.

Competition means struggle for existence. It implies survival of the fittest. One exists. Other is out.

Even competition is enjoyable. Two equal teams offer good match. Here the competition is tough. If the competitors play rough competition causes tension. Uneven competition is one sided. It offers no attraction at all, since the result is known

Competition is omnipresent. Man faces it. He has to face it. He is bound to face it. In this regard he has nothing to do except experiencing it. Thus man, willy-nilly, faces it from cradle to coffin in its various forms and features having different degrees and dimension as well.

Competition enables someone to identify his actual status in comparison with other competitors. As per physics, if two metals have temperature difference then heat transfers from higher to lower metal till the temperature equals to both. Similarly, if a person realises that he is inferior to other members of the group then he tries to excel further. If he is good then he tries to achieve greatness. They say where goodness ends greatness begins.

Again, in a group, an inferior person can readily identify his drawbacks. He tries to compensate his deficiency. This effort helps to improve his efficacy. In course of time when he discovers that he has nothing to get further from the present association then he searches for a better platform to enrich him further. It is a continuous process since knowledge is infinite. The wise knows that the fountain of knowledge is never closed.

If a person perceives that he is superior to someone he should immediately leave that person, since he has nothing good to get from him. He cannot achieve further development. This is severe more in case of group of inferior persons who may torture or divert him from his aim being envious. As such they say good company pays bad company pains.

If someone gets an assignment in first chance then it is proved that his preparation is good. If someone passes any examination without any help of others, rather depending on self-teaching he is the best of all. His confidence level is higher than other persons around him. Confidence is all and everything. He who is confident rises high. Lack of confidence causes utter and ultimate failure.

Further, someone if fails to reach the desired goal in the first attempt then he declines to try further. He becomes frustrated. He is fickle-minded and suffers from lack of attention. Such a person if be sentimental commits suicide. In contrast, a determined soul tries repeatedly till realisation of the object. He never cares for third party's remark. He may be of average or less merit but compensates that deficiency by hard labour. Effort has no substitute; rather effort itself is its substitute. Only an ambitious person knows it and uses it effectively.

If a person tries for something there are two possibilities. Either he may fail or he may fail to fail. An intelligent person always tries for the second one.

Sportsmanship is a great virtue. All do not possess this rare quality. A sportsman is a person of free and fair i.e., pleasing personality. Such a person takes anything with free and fair mind. He always accepts anything with its face value. This attitude is very important in reality. It offers peace and happiness in family life thereby society at large. All do not have this trait. Only a blessed soul possesses this gift. All are not blessed. Only few fortunate persons get this divine blessing. This answers why we notice few charming persons around us.

A true sportsman appreciates the opponent for his expertise. A successful player knows well that expertise can never be achieved overnight. It needs untiring practice. It demands dedication. Nothing can be achieved instant. Rome was not built in a day. The Romans know it. A lazy person knows it not. He never joins in the competition.

True competition is the concern of gentleman. Here ethics is its essence. In contrast a shrewd never cares for ethics or moral values. He intends to win by hook or by crook. Profit is his single agenda. He intends to avail it at any cost be it fair or foul it matters little. His target is to realise the ambition by any means.

There are two types of persons.

The first category likes competition. They welcome competition. They are involved in competition voluntarily. Also they involve others in competition to enjoy its charm together. Through competition they prosper and inspire others to prosper.

The second category is just opposite. They are afraid of any kind of competition. They avoid crowd. They like to live far from the madding crowd. They prefer stereotype life. Dull and monotonous life seldom bore them. They are so peculiar. They are so uniquely tuned. They are common mob and large in number. They possess uncommon philosophy towards their lives.

Conclusion

Without competition life becomes dull and monotonous. Competition with others is risky and bad. But competition with self i.e., self competition is good. Substitute of good is better. Substitute of better is best. Thus competition with best gives birth to better than best. It is a positive venture. It implies optimism. It escorts from dark to light. Here lies the utility of competition. Here lies its importance.

References

No reference, since the present article is an outcome of Creative Nonfiction Writing.

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