

## Heart of the Matter

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### Character makes the person

There is a beautifully old saying, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," that in the truest sense embodies what being human is all about. Since the time a person is conscious of his or her own existence in the world, he or she lives by hope. We don't know what the next instant will bring, but we are hopeful that it will be better than the current one.

There are occasions in life when one feels hopeless. It doesn't happen often to most of us, but when it does we don't enjoy doing any of the stuff that makes us happy. Like playing a game of soccer with friends, going to the movies, reading a book or even having an ice-cream. We feel that the weight of the world has descended upon us and all that we can do is lie down and close our eyes to shout out all worldly stimuli. Fortunately for most of us, such times are rare and we soon snap out of these dark periods. That is because human beings are by nature hopeful.

If ever one wants one's community or nation to achieve greatness, the surest way of doing that is by giving its children hope. Hope like faith can move mountains. We should never deny our children the hope for a better future. With hope we give them the incentive to work hard and fulfil their heart's desires. When we educate our children we raise their hopes, when we feed and clothe them well and provide adequate medical care we stoke their hope. Hope is like a glowing ember which can be fed with oxygen and made to grow bigger and bigger till it lights an inextinguishable and all conquering fire that makes people reach out for the stars

This fact has been well recognized by bestselling authors around the world, who have made hope the central theme of their books. Writers as diverse as Robin Sharma, Deepak Chopra, Paulo Coelho and Dale Carnegie have managed to sell millions of books because they have realized that hope is the wellspring at which human civilization drinks. They know that hope is the rope that lets you hang on to life and through their books they exhort their readers to be hopeful and keep going.

Come to think of it, any and every human achievement that one can think of must once only have been a hope in somebody's heart. When Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norway left the base camp to make an audacious attempt to become the first people to set foot on Mt. Everest, it must have been their hope of accomplishing their mission that kept them going in spite of the treacherous conditions ranged against them. The bravest and the mightiest of people only have hope to guide them when the chips are down.

In fact the ones who stop hoping are the weakest ones. The ones who hope, willy nilly come on top. To quote Barak Obama, it is the "Audacity of Hope," that gets you through. Another great US President, Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." This is pretty much what I am trying to say here. Hope is like the human breath. It never really deserts you.

That is why people will never really give up hope even in their darkest hour. For in their heart of hearts they know that as surely as the sun rises every day their bad days will give place to good even excellent ones.

Hope makes a human being noble, as it inspires them to strive for better and better. Hope is ingrained into man's DNA. We always hope that tomorrow will be better than today. New cures for old diseases will be found, our longevity will grow further and our quality of life will get better and better. Like somebody wisely remarked, "You are what you think," and mankind has a track record of achieving whatever it hoped would become possible one day.

With this kind of genetic coding primed to making our tomorrow so much better than today, do we really have to spend a moment that is not hopeful? People who are hopeful attract similar people around them and together they create a much better world for themselves and those around them. Talk to any successful corporate or political leader and the first thing that they will ever tell you is that they like to keep positive and hopeful people around them and not negative ones who say no to everything that one proposes.

Don't they always say, "Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and cry alone." In Shakespeare's immortal play Julius Caesar, Caesar has this to say about Cassius, a man who would later conspire to have him assassinated-

Let me have men about me that are fat,  
Sleek-headed men and such as sleep a-nights.  
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look.  
He thinks too much. Such men are dangerous.

Hope is the fuel that propels human growth and evolution. It is in everyone's interest to be well stocked on this fuel, so as to have a long and fruitful journey ahead. The best part about hope is that anyone can have hope in whatever situation they might be. Hope is that lifeline which tells you that you can do better than what you are currently doing. If you hang on to the hope it will make your life better and better one step a time.

Is there any earthly reason for anyone to not be hopeful?

*(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)*

# Development to 'continue'



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with National Unity Assembly members at Al Safriya Palace

#### DT News Network Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday expressed Bahrain's resolve to continue the march of development and modernisation and further strengthen principles of citizenship based on justice, equality and equal opportunities.

HM the King said this while receiving Supreme Committee's President of the National Unity

Assembly (NUA), Dr. Shaikh Abdullatif Mahmoud Al Mahmoud, and his accompanying delegation at Al Safriya Palace.

King Hamad lauded NUA's role in bolstering principles of the national action and praised its efforts in holding the Gulf Union Conference in Bahrain.

NUA Supreme Committee President Dr. Al Mahmoud extended to HM the King greetings from the participants of the two-day

conference. He also hailed the Royal initiative to achieve full-fledged Gulf Union - a call which was backed by HM the King in his keynote address marking the National Day on December 16, 2013.

Dr. Al Mahmoud paid tribute to Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa on the occasion.



Nass Group and Nass Corporation Chairman Sameer Nass congratulated the employees who were awarded by the Labour and Social Development Ministry during the 2016 Excellence Award Ceremony. Nass Group Chairman Sameer Nass received the award from the Labour and Social Development Ministry for excellent effort in supporting the national economy. Nass employees who won the awards are: Abdulnabi Ali Isa Marhoon (HSE Manager, Nass Contracting), Fuad Khalil Abdulla (Operations Manager, Gulf City Cleaning Company), Hasan Isa Ali Al Derazi (Salesman, Nass Commercial), Falah Hasan Abdulla (Administrator, Abdulla Ahmed Nass & Sons), Majeed Ahmed Salim (Assistant Manager, Gulf City Cleaning Company), (Sayed Abbas Ali Hashim (Carpenter, Artland Interior). Above, Nass Group and Nass Corporation Chairman Sameer Nass with the award winners