

# The Story of Courage



Waqi Munim

## FOREWORD

In his debut as an aspirational writer, Waqi Munim spins a tall tale about a mystical forest called Progress where the animals are appropriately named: Courage, Inner Conviction, Motivation, Passion etc. It is a spell binding tale as we experience the rise and fall of Courage, the main character, as he succumbs to the follies of good times and complacency. In a happy ending Courage finds the way back to greatness as he recognizes the follies of his ways.

While there are many messages to be derived, a key one applies to many great organizations, specifically the challenge of delivering sustainable great results. It seems almost inevitable for organizations to sink into a cycle which begins with hard work and determination leading to great results, followed by complacency and a drop-off in results as more determined and hungrier competitors start winning. The cycle starts again, once a bottom has been reached. Many times a change in leaderships is needed to reinvigorate the organization. Sadly there are many cases in history where realization occurred, too late and great nations, companies; sport teams etc. became extinct before they could recover.

Hopefully, this book will be used by organizations to make themselves aware of the inevitable dangers of the downfall especially following a period of good results. It is incumbent on

great organizations to build in a process for re-energizing and refreshing themselves well before a drop-off.

Waqi wrote this parable based on his rich and diverse personal and business life and I am confident it will serve its purpose of raising awareness and provoking deep thought on this subject.

Al Rajwani  
Vice President  
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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It really feels great when someone believes in your capabilities. I am privileged that so many people who touched my life have believed in my abilities and have given me encouragement to passionately pursue my aspirations. Writing a book is just one of my many passions in life.

My father, late M.A. Munim has had the biggest influence in my life. I would like to thank him for being a source of inspiration, a guide and a mentor who imbued into my character the courage to pursue my goals with a positive attitude, agility and an unwavering focus. My wife, Tabinda whose love for our family and devotion in taking care of us has enabled me to find time, to write the book, on top of my usual work.

My mother, Naz Munim, whose prayers give me the energy and courage to take on newer challenges. My daughters: Manal and Amani who fill my life with constant happiness and joy.

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Waqi Munim

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# **THE STORY OF COURAGE**

## Introduction

Once upon a time in a land far away, there was a jungle called "Progress." The jungle was ruled by a daring lion named Courage, who had a wife, Inner Conviction, and two sons who they named Passion and Perseverance.

Courage was groomed under the tutelage of his parents, Principles and Values, who believed in always doing the right thing and living life to its maximum potential by striking a right balance between spiritual, material, physical and social wellness. They were always thankful for the many blessings bestowed upon them by God and lived their lives with discipline, purpose and contentment. They believed that moderation and spirituality was the path to salvation.

Principles and Values raised Courage with a lot of love and care and infused in him strong morals and ethics. Each building block of Courage's character was carefully laid, each principle profoundly engraved, each mistake was converted into a learning experience, each success was lavishly praised, and each conflicting argument carefully listened to - to encourage in him the spirit of individualism and an appreciation of dissimilarities. He was likewise encouraged to be his own self instead of a mere reflection of his parents.

Principles and Values would often counsel Courage, "To strike a right balance between the four elements of spiritual, physical, social and material wellness, you need to develop rituals, such as regular exercises, prayers and introspection, spending quality time with family and friends and having clear goals for material prosperity." The advice given by Principles and Values served as the guiding beacon for Courage in his personal and professional life and enabled him to emerge as the champion of Progress.

Courage got acquainted with Inner Conviction very early in his life. She was a very self-assured lioness who lived alone in a nearby village after her parents died from a rare disease. Courage felt complete in the company of Inner Conviction and realized that he did better in work and play when he had her with him.

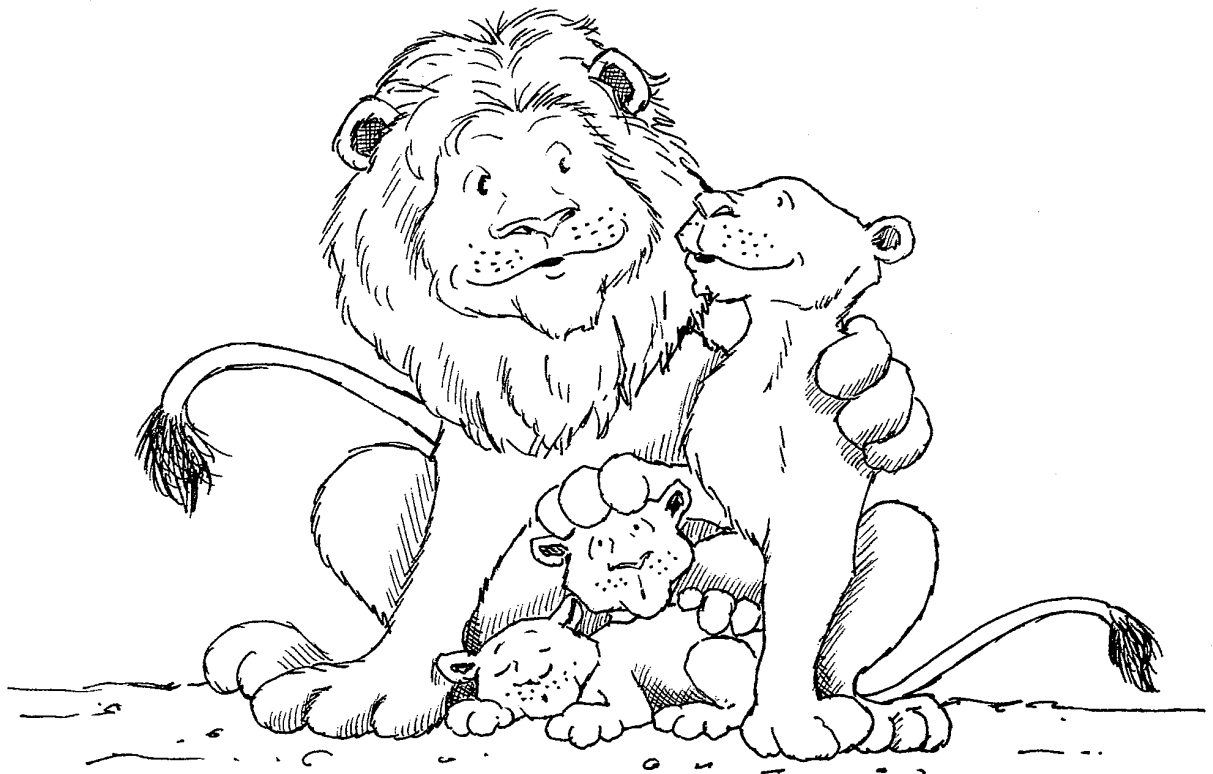
Over time the friendship turned into strong affection. One evening, close to the stream and under the soft light of the full moon, he confessed his emotions of love to Inner Conviction.

Courage said, "You live in my heart. If you are with me, I can prevail over the most formidable challenges." He further said, "I derive comfort from the fact that, at the end of it all, I can return to the shelter of your love to overcome the anxieties, troubles, sorrows and many small, meaningless worries that haunt me. I can then emerge with refreshed vigour and determination to face new challenges."



Inner Conviction and Courage married in a quiet ceremony and within a few years had two sons: Passion and Perseverance.

Inner Conviction was committed to Courage and stood by him like a pillar of strength in good and bad times and gave him encouragement to do the right thing even under difficult conditions. She was a mirror of conscience for Courage and a comforting shadow under which Courage could relax and recuperate after a hard day's work.



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“Courage is meaningless without Inner Conviction, Passion and Perseverance”.  
“Together we have all the right qualities to appropriately lead Progress”.

## Courage is the Foundation of Progress

Courage left his parents' village to carve a name for himself. He wanted to create a jungle that would be built on the foundation of modern socio-economic systems but would have the teachings of Principles and Values at its core. He wanted to create a jungle that prosperous and warm place to live in.

Courage loved his family and once said, "Courage is meaningless without Inner Conviction, Passion and Perseverance. Together we have all the right qualities to appropriately lead Progress." The family was an incarnation of positive energies that were visible all around in the spirit and ambiance of Progress and were an inspiration for all the animals living in the jungle.

Progress was a very prosperous land and had become a model for the neighbouring jungles. It was pleasing to see the birds of optimism chirping everywhere, the wise owls busy spreading knowledge, the doves of peace residing in every neighbourhood, and the rabbits of joy and happiness in their bubbly selves. The freshness of a spring dawn and the serenity of a calm stream were like a canopy overspreading the flora and fauna of Progress.

The positive environment was backed by sound systems of governance. Everyone understood the vision and plan for Progress. There was clear division of work and responsibilities, guidelines on

the amount of grazing during different seasons, marked territories for animals, strong border controls to keep dangerous intruders out of Progress, creation of reservoirs to have water during the dry seasons, and judicial courts to bring speedy trials and expedient



Courage is always at the foundation of Progress.

justice to everyone. Progress was truly the fruition of a dream, a dream shared and embraced by the animals with Courage.

The encouraging atmosphere, prosperity, self-respect, welfare and promising future were stimuli for the animals to work hard. They were always stretching themselves to exceed expectations and showed excellence in the tasks that they undertook. Self-satisfaction and confidence gave the animals a spring in their walk, a smile on their face and a purpose in everything they did. They were willing to take on newer challenges and were not discouraged by failure. They had a never-say-die attitude and the spirit of Courage was visible all over the jungle.

Courage regularly visited his parents and spent quality time with them. He credited his success to his parents' teachings and prayers. Once, after winning the best village award, he made a speech in front of the animals of Progress and neighbouring villages to recognize the contributions of his parents to his success.

In the speech, he said "Today, as I stand tall to face the challenges of life and to progress by weathering the storms of uncertainty and fear, I see how your belief in my capabilities has endowed me with the inner strength and confidence that makes me steadfast as a rock, with an attitude to win, even in disturbing, depressing and tough circumstances.

You have laid the foundation of my character on Principles beyond emotions, Trust beyond belief, a Confidence beyond surety and a Faith beyond evidence.

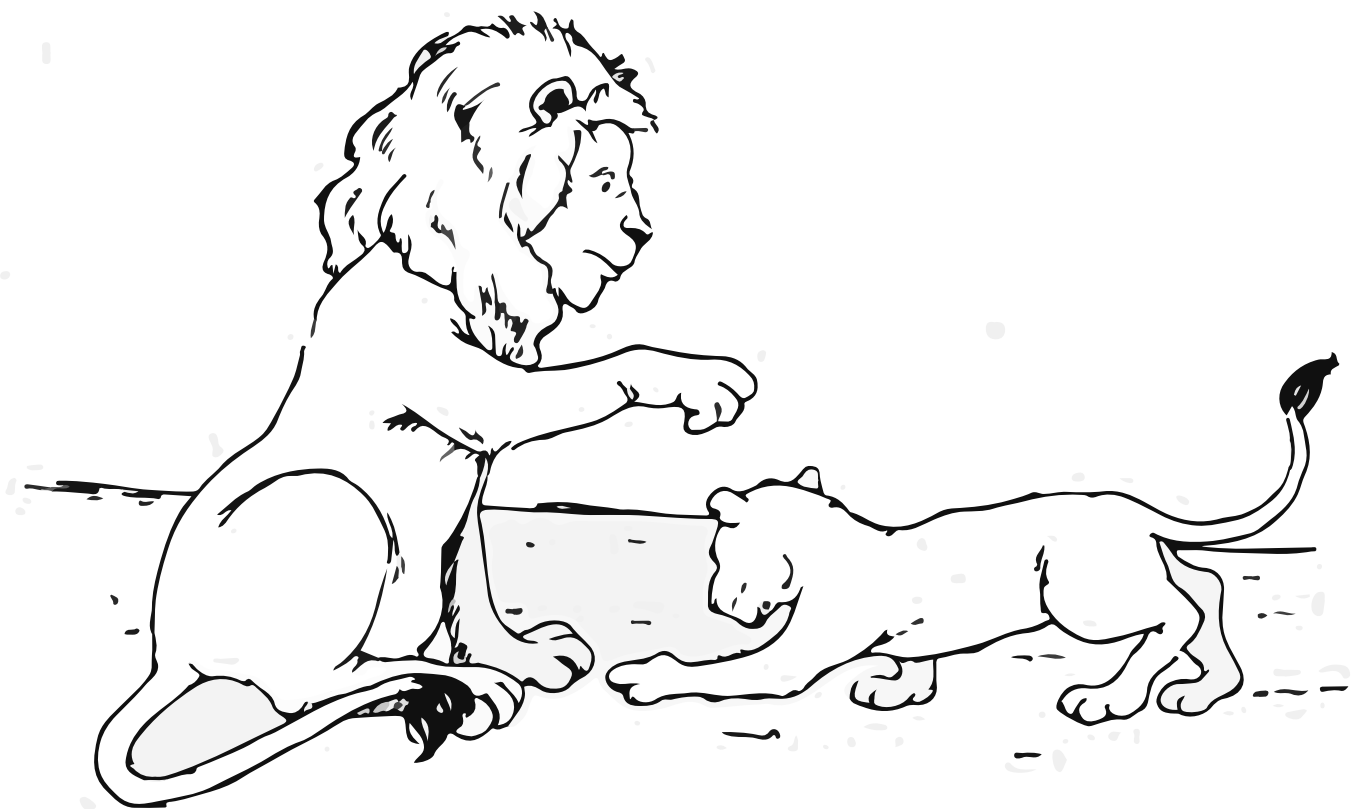
Everything I am is a reflection of your aspirations, an embodiment of your principles, a sculpture of your laborious coaching and the result of your love and sacrifice. You made me see big and you

made me think big. You made me see possibilities and you made me believe in my abilities. You gave me the magical formula for success: faith in God and a high standard to live by.

You did not hold my hand to guide me through the path of life, you did even better. You made me see right and wrong and gave me sound principles to tread on the walkway of life. I have felt secure and blessed in your presence and have profound respect for the peace and tranquility you exude and how you have harnessed the principles of contented living.

Thank you for being the beacon that has enlightened my life. For me you have been a guide, a sanctuary, a shield from the harsh realities of life, an epitome of love, a sculptor of my character and parents who are for me a shade in the scorching sun of the world."

Principles and Values were in tears on hearing this unwavering expression of love from their son. They hugged Courage and told him, "We are proud of you and pray for your continuous success and prosperity."



Principles and Values are the soul of Courage.



**Negativity, Complacency and Arrogance are the perfect recipe for breeding incompetence.**



## **Progress faces a three-pronged challenge: Negativity, Complacency, and Arrogance**

The prosperity in Progress thrived for many years. The animals, including Courage, became accustomed to success and started to believe that good fortune would stay with them forever. It seemed that nothing could derail Progress from its path of success.

The animal in Progress, including Courage were so busy running after success that they were forgetting about Principles and Values, who were wearing out in the newer times. Animals started to believe that success was in itself a philosophy and that Principles and values were a thing of the past. They were starting to lose the ability to strike a balance between physical, spiritual, social, emotional and material well being. They got engrossed in mundane routines and took their vision away from the changes happening around them.

There were no new plan for taking Progress to the next level of prosperity in the changing times. They were too proud of their current success and were oblivious of the impending slowness in the growth of Progress.

Inner Conviction told Courage, 'My dear husband, whatever new systems we adopt, Principles and Values will always be at the core of them all.' She counselled Courage to bring his parents to Progress to nurture them and to allow the younger generations to be exposed to their core essence and energy which was perpetually optimistic.

Courage did not think that this was a good idea, as he was very busy in his day-to-day work and had no time for them. He said that he would send two Zebra nurses to take care of Principles and Values. For the first time, Courage was not at peace and harmony with his Inner Conviction.

Inner Conviction tried to make Courage understand her point, 'In the journey of Progress, Principles and Values serve as a guide, and without them Progress can be derailed.'

To this Courage retorted, 'Nothing can derail Progress from its path of greater prosperity. Courage has the strength to achieve whatever it aspires to.' Courage was now becoming arrogant and pompous.

Inner Conviction was understandably upset with Courage. She held her paw and said, 'Life is a series of perpetual corrections; mistakes can be an impetus to get back on the right path. I hope that you realize the opportunity you are missing to serve your parents, who infused into your strong body the Courage that you are today.'

Then she got up and left the cave without embracing Courage. for the first time since their marriage.

After their argument, Inner Conviction, who had earned a leadership position in the Supreme Council of Progress, left with her sons to help Courage's ailing parents recuperate and fully revive in spirit and health. Her absence had an effect on the functioning of the Supreme Council and an impact on the animals.

It so happened that three foxes by the names of Complacency, Arrogance and Negativity relocated to Progress. During normal times, the border security bears would have never allowed the foxes to step inside Progress. However, in this very progressive and successful time, they were negligent, thinking that nothing could hurt Progress. The foxes sneaked into Progress at a time when Courage was susceptible to deceit and flattery, as his spouse Inner Conviction was not beside him. He also did not have his sons, Passion and Perseverance by his side.

After entering the jungle, the foxes started to spread their philosophies of lethargy, arrogance and pessimism. Things started to decline slowly. Animals became complacent and were not energized by, or passionate about their work, and careless when projects were delayed. Some were busy criticizing others, while others did not rejoice in their colleagues' prosperity. Across Progress, there was insecurity, inner dissatisfaction, and lack of

purpose. The three foxes combined were the perfect recipe for breeding incompetence.

Courage, now without Inner Conviction, Passion and Perseverance was not his usual self. In a weak moment, he began to seek counsel from Complacency, Negativity and Arrogance. He became scruffy, put on weight, and stopped taking his regular rounds of the jungle. The lethargy took away his desire to do better and to improve his life and the lives of those around him. He still was the leader of Progress, but he had lost the virtues that had fired his ambition to achieve glory for himself and his village.

Little did Courage realize what a strength it was to have Inner Conviction, Passion and Perseverance with him. They would have never let him stray into complacency.

Courage without his family was not the same. In his new persona, he could only celebrate past laurels in the Supreme Council and began avoiding tough decisions. He attempted to disguise his complacency in the garb of slowing down a bit, after years of hard work and accomplishments. He began to view things negatively, and this attitude made him believe that things were unfair. He lost his enthusiasm for living life. The same feelings spread to other animals in the jungle.

Courage, the inspiring leader of yore, was no longer respected or revered by the animals. They would jibe and scoff at their leader behind his back.

None of the animals including the dogged Rhinoceros, the Giraffe with their high personal standards, the hard working Elephants, or the sharp-eyed hawks advised their leader, for they themselves were under the influence of Complacency, Negativity and Arrogance. In earlier days, if Courage had deviated, his able team would have taken charge to bring things under control. Now they were outfoxed by their lax attitude.

The deterioration was steady, but the animals seemed to be adjusting to the retardation of Progress, like a frog in a pot of slowly boiling water, unaware that it is gradually being cooked by the water's rising temperature, as its body absorbs and adjusts to the intensify heat.

Competing villages, who once envied Progress and struggled to match its prosperity and success, now felt the opportunity to grow ahead of Progress.

They capitalized on the situation by offering better opportunities to some of the brighter animals in Progress who were still true to the virtues that were the corner-stone of its success. They were demotivated in the newer Progress, which was marred with Negativity, Complacency and Arrogance.

The migration of the best talent from Progress to hungrier competition accelerated its downfall. The declining trend continued and soon, complacency, negativity and lack of discipline had multiplied effect of regression. Progress was left behind by the neighbouring jungles, and many of the animals migrated from Progress in the hope of a better life somewhere else.

When things got very bad, the Supreme Council of Progress met with Courage. The sharpness, the acumen, the sparkle in their eyes, the spirit to change were all missing in the once strong team. It was a routine meeting in which they blamed external facts for the state of Progress.

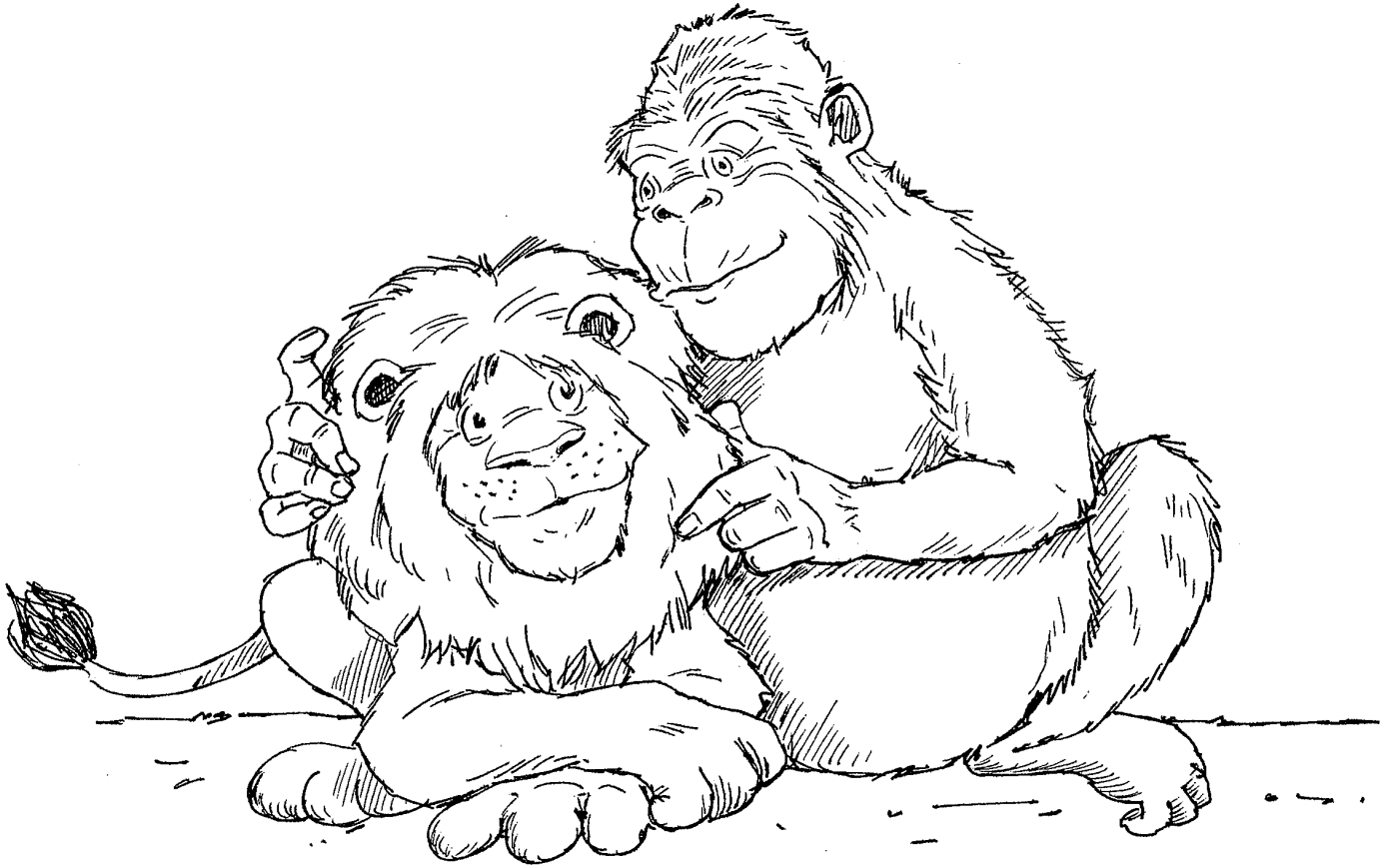
No one took responsibility for the results or talked about how things could be improved. It was simply a case of apathy and

closing eyes to the challenges. The council members were oblivious to the impact of their behaviors on the plight of Progress.

Progress was blessed with great natural resources and the quality of the animals was world class, yet by unsystematic grazing, improper utilization of water, internal differences and quarrels, criticism, quick developing jealousies, unnecessary sensitivities, social tribulations and procrastination in decision-making, the once blissful jungle was destroyed.

It seemed that the animals had lost the Courage to face life and its challenges. They had forgotten how to harness the joys that come from living with passion and purpose. Progress was now a mere shadow of its past glories.

In another village, Principles and Values were recuperating under the loving care of Inner Conviction. All of them were planning to go to Progress to be with Courage.



“I did the right thing to visit; Progress needs Motivation”.



One day Sincerity, an old goat, who was living in Progress, visited Inner Conviction and told her about the state of things there. Inner Conviction on hearing the news, wanted to immediately leave for Progress. However, she realized that things would not change with Inner Conviction alone. She knew that Progress needed the help of Motivation, a wise Gorilla who had once been a guru to Courage.

He had left Progress years ago, as he had thought that Progress under Courage did not have a role for Motivation as it was already woven into the fabric of Courage. On Inner Conviction's request, Motivation visited Progress.

Motivation was appalled to see the state of Progress. He spoke to various animals and observed complacency everywhere along with lack of systems, discipline, and inner fire to do well.

Animals looked scruffy, were late to work and in completing their projects and no effort was being made to improve their skills; there was lack of collaboration, negativity, and more effort spent on politicking than on work.

Motivation went to see Courage, who was very pleased to see his old friend. Courage's den was a mess and his appearance was shabby; he had untrimmed hair, had not taken a swim in days and was looking haggard and unfit. He was the opposite of his usual self.

Motivation asked Courage how things were in Progress. Courage started to complain about everything and everybody. He blamed his Supreme Council, the brain-drain, the declining grazing lands and reduced rainfall for the retardation of Progress. He sincerely believed that he was doing his best for Progress and that external factors were to blame for its low state of affairs.

He said, "I believe that nothing can be done to resurrect the flagging fortunes of Progress." Motivation replied, "Nothing will change unless you believe that things can be changed." He further said, "You have everything to succeed. You are Courage, you have Inner Conviction, Passion, Perseverance, Principles, and Values. This is all that is needed to bring about change."

Courage confided in Motivation that he was planning to send his two sons, Perseverance and Passion, to the faraway jungles, to live a better life, as he felt that their lives would be destroyed by the current state of Progress.

Motivation said. "I did the right thing to visit; Progress needs Motivation." He advised Courage to refrain from sending his sons to another jungle, as both Passion and Perseverance were the backbone of Courage.

He asked him to call them back from their grandparents' home. He further told Courage that his great leadership was being consumed

by the mites of complacency and negativity. The same disease was affecting the generally very capable and outstanding animals.

Motivation told Courage, "It is only you, my friend Courage, who can bring the gory day back. All you need is some enthusiasm, discipline, and positive thinking." On hearing this, Courage smirked cynically and said, "I fear that I will fail." Motivation replied, "Fear is an imaginary expectation of the worst. It is in our hands to change this perception."

Motivation further continued, "True character emerges under adversity and pressure. To overcome these present difficulties, you need to move ahead carefully and confidently, focused, and with a purpose, to take Progress closer to its long-term goals." He said, "Continually invent new approaches of good governance to stay ahead of competition."

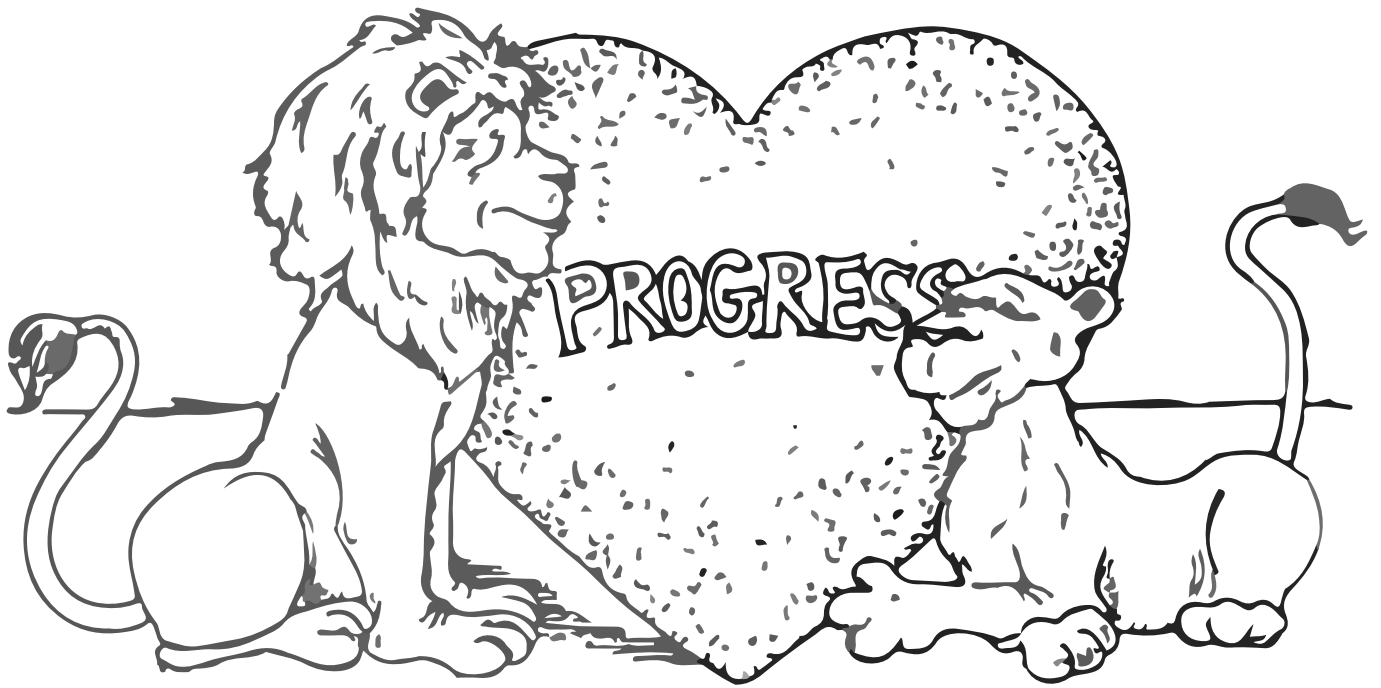
Motivation continued, "Take charge of your life as the essence of life is in the living. You can never be beaten unless you accept defeat yourself."

Courage mustered up hope and said, "I want to change but I am getting weak, and I am not sure that the animals will follow my direction." Motivation replied, "Acceptance of an issue and making the choice to change is the first step towards progress." He congratulated Courage on taking the most important step already.

He then encouraged him by saying, "You need only a determined soul and a believing heart to take on the biggest challenges and overcoming them I believe in your capabilities." He then embraced Courage and said, "Inside you is a lion, which is raring to roar."



Inside you are a lion which is rearing to roar.



**All we need is a believing heart, and a determined soul to tackle on the biggest challenge; and overcome it.**

He sat again and continued, "Age is in the mind, you are only as old as you think you are. Your body can age but your spirit should always remain young. You should aspire to do new things and continue to pursue excellence, till death takes you away."

Courage stood up with tears in his eyes and told Motivation; "Thank you for helping me come to terms with myself and for having confidence in me." Motivation replied, "Courage does not need crutches of motivation and confidence. Courage has an innate fire and passion to be undaunted by challenges and is always in command of it's destiny."

He further said, "Each new morning gives us hope that we can bring about a positive change in our lives and provides us with the energy to pursue our goals with renewed enthusiasm."

Courage, with gratitude for Motivation, said, "Thank you for being my inspiration, that has enlightened my life."

At this moment, Inner Conviction returned with the rest of the family. Courage embraced Inner Conviction and said, "I was lost without you. Everyone needs inner conviction, some purpose to pursue with passion and continuous perseverance, to develop Courage. I will never let you leave me again." Then he asked, "Why did you leave me?"

Inner Conviction replied, "I have always loved you and will continue loving you forever. Knowing that you are with me gave me the fortitude to face many difficult situations. I developed unwavering confidence in you and was living in the illusion of devotion. I confided in you. I worshipped you and put everyone in my life. I followed your every suggestion; I preached your doctrine in your absence.

I made others see the divinity of your endeavors. I kept aloft and tried my best, to shape life in their life in their mold. I was in a trance of single-minded devotion for the lion I adored so much.

Over time, I found that you are as much susceptible to error as any one of us. You, too, have many weaknesses and an ego, and needed solace for yourself. I stepped aside to give you more room for you to discover yourself."

She further said, "Staying away from you, I realised that Courage and Inner Conviction are nothing without each other. It is important

for us to be together so that we can correct each other in the path of life. I am sure that the time you have spent without me and the children will have made you realise your mistake.

Inner Conviction then hugged and kissed Courage and said, "I am a part of you. You will always find me inside yourself."

Principles and Values, with love in their smiles and in their gaze, gently wiped the tears from Courage's eyes and said, "The more successful you become, the deeper you should become rooted in your Principles and Values. They will always guide you to the right path."

Courage told Principles and Values, "I am sorry. I realise now how much I need you all. I still make mistakes, which prevent me from achieving self-fulfilment and inner peace. I still get upset at trivial things. I need your prayers, advice, and your love today, more than ever. We have so much more to accomplish together! Your prayers and wisdom and my intellect and 'can-do' attitude will help us to carve a name in the world and more importantly to achieve a nirvana of happiness and contentment." There was humility in Courage's eyes. He was beginning to shun the attitude of arrogance, negativity, and complacency he had acquired.

With moist eyes, the lion looked in the mirror and said, "Here I am, the emblem of fortitude, giving up on life, because of the mites of Complacency, Negativity, and Arrogance. I will rise, fight, and win."



To this, Motivation said, "Yes, you do not need an invitation or a recommendation to succeed; you have the power inside you to lead Progress back to its lost glory."

Now, Courage was raring to go, as if he was the very reincarnation of his former dashing and daring self. He realised how the foxes of Complacency, Negativity, and Arrogance had nearly destroyed Progress. He promised to correct the flagging situation and said, "We can rise from any situation if we have the willingness to succeed."

He asked Motivation to join him in reshaping Progress. Motivation replied, "No, I cannot stay. I am sure that you no longer need Motivation to get things right."

Other leaders need me, whose courage has been eroded by time and, who are afraid to make difficult decisions for fear or failing. Fear is the greatest barrier to self-actualisation. I need to give them some motivation to be their old effective selves." However, he promised he would frequently visit Progress to ensure that it would not be derailed again.

## **Process of Re-Building Progress**

The next morning, Courage rose early, prayed to seek energy and help from God, did his power-jog, and took a swim in a nearby lake. He then had a healthy breakfast with his family, laughed with them, and after giving each member of his family a big hug, left for the jungle with Inner Conviction. He now had the spirit and support of Inner Conviction, Passion and Perseverance, along with the blessings of Principles and Values.

As he walked through the jungle, he observed what his complacency and subsequent breakdown of systems had done to Progress. He quickly started to pick up the pieces of the broken systems and through discipline, hard work, and right priorities, initiated his rejuvenation plan.

The first step was to call his ferocious tigers named Positive Thinking, Agility, and Level-Headedness. He asked them to chase away Complacency, Negativity, and Arrogance from Progress, then to work to change the mind-set of the animals to make them positive, agile, and level-headed.

At first, it was difficult to persuade the animals to follow the new direction and vision for Progress. The animals were skeptical and

felt it would take too much effort and sacrifice. They attempted to prevent Courage from taking the difficult but prosperous path.

Courage called the animals of Progress together and gave an energising speech: "We are all very special animals bestowed with distinctive physical, spiritual, and emotional characteristics to bring the world our own special flavour. We are in our own kind of universe, which makes us special in our own way.

Our personalities, our demeanour, our approach to life, our thinking, and our beliefs, all manifest our uniqueness and individuality. This individuality is our greatest possessions, providing us our separate and distinct identity.

We, the proverbial 'ordinary animals' are not ordinary. We are indeed special, and we are endowed with a reservoir of such beautiful emotions as love, passion, forgiveness, sympathy, and friendliness, which are the essence of all relationships. we dream and work to turn these dreams into a reality, we provide our share of colour to the world's spectrum, and we are bound to each other by powerful emotions.

We, in so many small ways, make our special contributions to life. we do our jobs with honesty, to bring prosperity to Progress and to provide for ourselves and for our dependents.

We are a source of strength for our loved ones, we are passionately loyal to our friends, and we each possess a warm heart that senses pain and affliction in another and is tearful at another's sorrow. At the same time, our hearts exuberantly rejoice in another's success. Behind even the toughest exterior lies a warm and caring heart,

that circumstances have taught to refrain from opening, lest it reveal it's tenderness and vulnerability.

We all generally have the desire to give our best to our family, friends, community, and the jungle. Can we animals, bound by such intricate bonds, pillars of strength to so many, be 'ordinary'?

Let's stop spending our days and our precious energies in complacency, negativity, and basking in past laurels. Life is too short to be wasted. Rise, fight, and win the battle for Progress. We need to revert to a balance between physical, spiritual, material, and social wellness.

This will give us the insight to weigh what is right and wrong on the scale of our morality, to feel deeply the bonds of our relationships, to speak with self-confidence, to behave in congruence with our beliefs and to spread the fragrance of our individuality all around."

Courage was undaunted and said to the animals, "If we want to bring change about, we should start by changing ourselves. We should accept the issues we face and our own shortcomings, and work hard collectively to meet the challenges ahead of use. This is our path to success" He further said, "One day we will all die. However, we have the option of how we live our lives till we meet death. Either we can waste it by being indifferent, negative, and complacent, or we can live a full life with determination, passion,

and purpose, to give the present of prosperity to the next generation”

Later, looking at the conviction of Courage and his unwavering focus, commitment and hard work to change things for the better, the animals started to believe in his vision. Seeing the animals excited by his plan, Courage said, “Conviction breeds enthusiasm, encouraging everyone to strive for a win.”

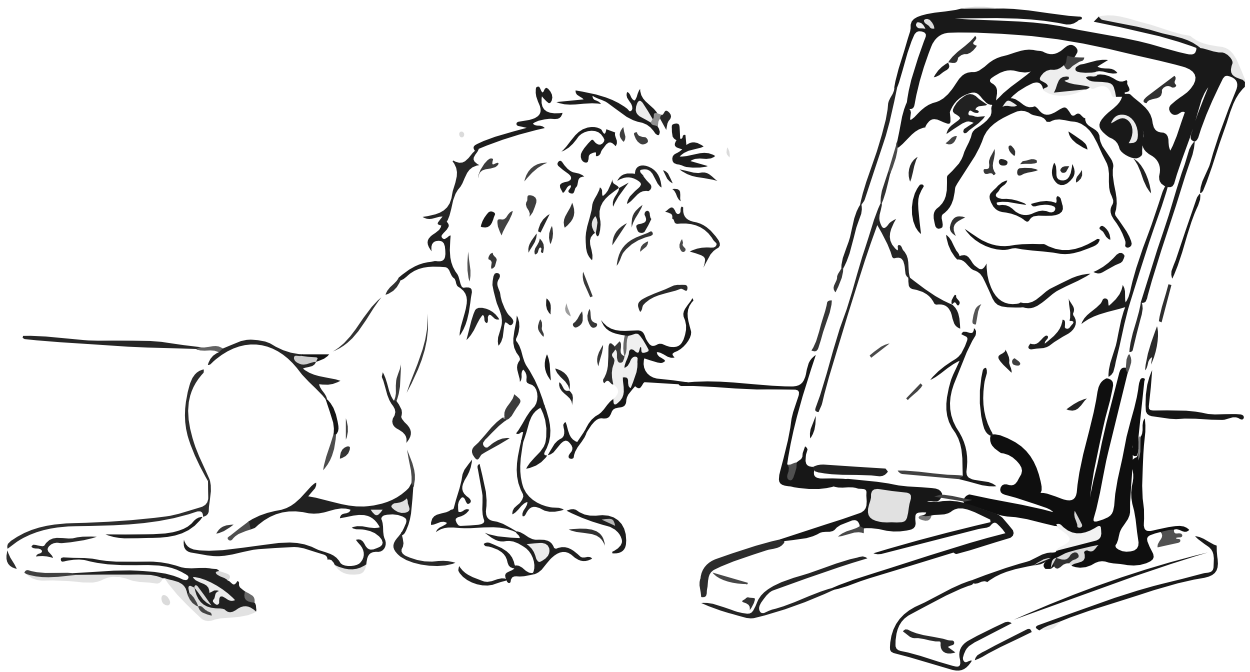
He further said, “Focus, discipline, and perseverance give you the best chance to reach your goals, whereas complacency, lack of enthusiasm, and indiscipline are the worst enemies of success.”

Before very long, Progress had found it’s lost glory and again became a model for the neighbouring jungles. Courage, now in advanced age, was asked by animals to take it easy, and relax. Courage retorted, “Continuous action is life, inactivity is death. As long as I am alive, I want to be fully engaged spiritually, emotionally, and physically in the challenges of life.”

He further said, “I will never again let the complacency get into me. Age is in the mind. You only age when you lose the passion to live fully. I feel young, rejuvenated, as I have many goals and challenges ahead of me.”

Courage is now old but he is very active, and his teachings remain embodied in Progress, which is a well-run, closely-knit, disciplined, and vibrant jungle, with animals knowing their goals and missions and taking on life's challenges with confidence and a broad smile. They are truly alive.

The animals of Progress firmly believe that, "We lose or fail not when the odds are heavily against us or when someone pronounces us lost; we lose when we ourselves give in to life's



**Age is in the mind. We age, when we lose the passion to live life enthusiastically.**

battles. Success come to those who have the courage, positive thinking, and determination to win.”

On the gate to Progress they have erected a big sign, which reads, “We have the power to achieve anything if we put our minds to it.”

**“There is no room for Complacency, Negativity, and Arrogance in our lives.”**





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**“There is no room for Complacency, Negativity and Arrogance in our lives”.**

## **Learnings from the Story of Courage**

This story is applicable to all who aspire to progress. Each one of us is a leader and has a lion raring to roar inside of us. It is simply a manner of taking charge of our lives and becoming active and

responsible. It is about shinning the negative attitudes of indifference, complacency, and criticism.

We have the power to win the battles of life, if we adopt the life of courage with inner conviction, passion and perseverance and continue to move towards new goals, by improving our skills and capabilities. Life is is a journey, and this journey of learning, discovering, and achieving is on, as long as we are alive, so let us rise, fight, and win the battle for progress and self-actualisation.

Though the story touches so many aspects of our lives, I would like to highlight the following:

- Leaders' courage is tested not only when the chips are down, but also when things are looking up. The jungle of progress went into regression when Courage, together with the other animals, became complacent during good times.

A lax attitude, negativity, and over-confidence can regard the progress of any organisation, country, or business unit. It is when we are 'high on success' that we should plan for the tough times. Leaders should be extremely cautious when the competition takes corrective action to reload it's guns and come back strongly.

- We simply cannot dwell on past laurels. Every day is a new day with new challenges. We should be continually renewing ourselves to move towards new, more challenging goals and to stay ahead

of our competition. Past laurels are past, living should be in the present and prudence is in planning for the future.

- Complacency is like a mite that consumes the Courage to live life to its fullest. Inactivity and indifference are among the biggest obstacles to growth. They both lead to negativity and lower self-esteem. We need to be engaged in life and to derive motivation from surmounting its challenges. A good, positive lifestyle is a must for better living. A lifestyle that includes praying, regular exercise, laughter, introspection, 7-6 hours of sleep, quality time with family and friends, proper diet and some personal time is essential.
- Criticism is simply a reflection of inner dissatisfaction. Complaining is an attempt to convince yourself that you are fine, while the problem is with everyone else or with the system. It's a fatalistic, passive and self-pitying approach to life's problems, which can give you only negativity, depression and lower self-esteem. Once a path of negativity is taken, you start to believe that nothing is good and you get into a negative spiral that not only affects you as an individual, but also the people who come in contact with you.
- Even when our systems break down, we can always fix them. It is never too late. Be confident and walk tall. We are the walking reflection of our convictions. How we behave has a bearing on the team. We should come across as strong leaders who are active,

disciplined and always purposeful. There will always be ups and downs in life. If we are true to our inner convictions, if our lives are firmly rooted in Principles and Values, we can always rise to fix the broken systems.

- We have to be careful whose advice we take. It is important to have the right people around us. We all need advice and counsel at different times and having the right people to provide the advice ensures that we take the right decisions. Courage, in a weak moment, took the advice of cunning foxes who were not interested in Courage but in their own personal gains. They wanted to spread their complacent doctrine to find a place for themselves in the village, which was vibrant with life, full of energy and passion and had no place for negativity, complacency and arrogance.

In our lives, we should identify the people who have our real interests close to their hearts, those who sincerely care for us. We should nurture these relationships, as we all need the advice of friends and mentors when we are down.

- At some point, we all need the Gorilla of motivation to recharge our batteries. Business leaders should play the role of the Gorilla to remove the rust from their organisations and to enable individuals to rediscover their lost passion to take on bigger challenges. Leaders themselves need motivation. In my view, motivation plays a greater role in the accomplishment of goals,

than skill. Skills and knowledge can be acquired, while motivation gives the drive and the passion to garner all the requisites to succeed in achieving the goals we have set for ourselves.

Each one of us should practice the art of motivating our families, friends, colleagues and subordinates. As we do this, we create positive energies that have a favourable impact on us and we feel stronger, happier and more connected.

Remember...

We have the potential to achieve anything, provided we develop the Courage to win life's battles. Most of the obstacles are in our mind. Negative thinking magnifies these obstacles into insurmountable boulders. Inner-Conviction, Passion and continuous Perseverance give us the Courage, to disintegrate these imaginary boulders, to achieve our aspirations.

Winning is a state of mind. It is an attitude to give your best to whatever you do. It is a passion to excel, to deliver results and to habitually bounce back from set-backs. Actions of a winner are purposeful and always lead to an end result.

Successful individuals exude positive energies, have conviction in their abilities, demonstrate passion for success and persevere; to transform their aspirations into reality.

We have the power to rise and change our lives for the better. It is only a matter of mustering up courage to overcome fear, by practicing routines that evolve courage through positive thinking, agility and humility; to strike perfect harmony between spiritual, social, physical and material wellness.

Once we achieve the balance in line with our principles and values, we achieve the nirvana of happiness and contentment.

## About the Author

Waqi Munim is a successful executive in a leading multinational. He is a proud father of two lovely daughters: Manal and Amani, husband to a beautiful wife, Tabinda and son to wonderful parents, Abdul Munim and Mahjabeen Naz. All of these people have been a source of inspiration for this book.

After graduating with Bachelors in Commerce, from the Government College of Commerce and Economics; Waqi received two gold medals from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Karachi.

Waqi is passionate about living a full life complete with physical, spiritual and social wellness. He practices yoga and is extremely fond of cricket and writing. He has lived in Belgium, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and has traveled extensively to many countries around the globe.

The Story of Courage is based on his reflections and learnings gained during the course of his life that provides food for thought for the readers. The lessons given in the book are valuable in both personal and professional life and show the path to become highly effective.

The story is an invitation to the readers to rise and accomplish their aspirations, dreams, desires and goals. All we need is a resolve to bring about a positive change to our life and of those around us. The message is about self-actualization or living to our maximum potential. It is about shunning lethargy and complacency, to take charge of life and to put in our best effort in every situation.

Success or failure is not an end in itself. Rather, it is the journey of pursuit for continual improvement and intellectual emancipation,



which truly signifies the human triumph and achievement. It is about living life to enjoy, laugh, love, share, empathize, spread happiness, feel, introspect, progress, give, rise strongly after every fall and to be completely contented with ourselves.

The author feels that even if he touches the life of one reader, to bring about a positive change in them, his mission stands accomplished.



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