



COURAGE TO SET OUT FOR THE UNKNOWN

Maggie Lo

“**T**he ability to control your fear in a dangerous or difficult situation”- this is the definition of the word “courage” from the Cambridge Dictionary. But as I see it, courage is the commitment to begin without any guarantee of success. While we can influence others with our courage, we can also influence others with our fear.

With courage, we have the strength to step out of our comfort zone into the unknown; we have the power to overcome any obstacles we face on our path. Because we have this strong faith, we believe that things will get better and that we can succeed if we keep working. We will be surrounded with positive vibes and this positivity will grow bigger and stronger and will spread to the people around us. For example, when you want to win a game badly, but you know your opponent ranks first in class, you will have to practise very hard for it. This is courage. When you are passionate about this uncertain outcome, there will be fire in your eyes and this fire can light up people’s hearts and encourage them to work hard for their dreams as well. This is when you influence others with your conviction due to courage.

Of course, there are times when we are tired of being courageous, striving for the unknown and walking on a path with no end. We will just want to slack off a bit and lie on a comfy couch, avoiding the unexpected and unpredicted. Our sluggishness makes us unwilling to try out new things, and this dull atmosphere forms a bubble around us. This bubble will get bigger and trap the people around us in it. It is all right to be doing nothing, standing on the same spot where we were standing yesterday. However, we may never see the beautiful view at the top of the mountain if we are satisfied with the comfort. We may never know what life has in store for us when we do not have the courage to take the first step.

Mark Twain once said, “Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.” We can be uncertain about our future; we can be insecure about our way; but we should never lack the courage to move forward on the path we have chosen. Even if the destination is unclear, we should have the faith that the road will lead to the light we long for. Who knows if we can fly when we lack the courage to jump off the cliff?