

Who is a Hero?

The term hero has been in social use for the longest time in history. The main characters of most fairy tales, such as Disney productions, revolve around this title. People use the term hero as a compliment in different contexts. The variety of definitions of the term in the world raises the question: who is a hero?

A hero is a person whose actions are regarded highly by the observer or society. These actions may not necessarily be moral. They only have to elicit a kind of awe in the observers. Whatever an individual might regard as wondrous may not be so unusual to another person. Therefore, heroism is relative (Gonchar, 2015).

Since the dawn of time, heroes have been recognized as people who can be looked up to, people who are brave and ready to fight for the rights of the oppressed. They are people who act selflessly and are not afraid of sacrificing their comfort for the common good. Their actions are always in line with the virtues upheld in their particular community. They are the types of people who can sacrifice their lives for the sake of a stranger they have never met when confronted with danger. They are the people who bear the burden of society on their shoulders without expecting any rewards or recognition (Murphy, 2014). They are the ones found in service industries: the doctors who treat patients, the soldiers who protect citizens, the teachers who share their knowledge with students, and the mothers who would sacrifice everything for the sake of their children - the unselfish people in the world (Murphy, 2014).

The problem is that such people no longer exist in communities today. Most people are driven by selfishness, greed for the acquisition of property, fame, and other selfish needs. The thirst for

recognition is their primary motivator. Due to this reason, heroes are defined as mythical creatures that only exist in tales. Heroism is an act from the past, not in the current societal setup (Gonchar, 2015).

Every person has the right to define heroism in the way they feel is right because there is no single definition that would explain what real heroism is. Still, every person can choose what to believe about whether heroes really exist in the world today. We can estimate that heroism is all about the intention to do good.