Life Is the Process of Wrestling Revelation of Life of Dangal

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Abstract. Dangal is a film whose main line is the children’s growth theme, showing a father’s mentality of his daughters’ education. The film creates the characters of a "strict father" and two tough daughters. The film presents the meaning of life more than staying in the wrestling as the level of competitive sports, therefore, this article will illustrate the meaning of life from three aspects: yielding, climbing and Jedi.

Introduction

Dangal as the most worthy to be remembered movie of 2017 tells the story of two girls growing up under his father’s leadership, suffering discrimination in the beginning and becoming the world champion in the end. Wrestling as a game of sports competition, for both sides, is not only the body’s contest, but the psychological battle. During the process of confrontation by the two sides, the body's activities also embody the inner struggle. How to face the difficulties of life is similar to life experiences, yield, climbing, or fight back? The film focuses on several shots of wrestling, which is a metaphor for life that shows life is the process of constant falling and climbing. Through analyzing the attitude changes of two daughters in the process of wrestling, this paper attempts to analyze the importance of bravery when people face frustration and difficulties.

Yield or Fight, Which Is a Problem

“Remember! Dad is not always able to save you, I can only teach you how to fight, but you have to rely on your own strength to fight and make every effort to save yourself!” In the last few seconds of the competition, Geeta remembered the words which were taught by Mahavira, who was her father, when they were training together, “Try to figure out the opponent's ideas and do a fake”. Almost at the same time, just before the final whistle blew, Geeta completed a nifty overarm throw, won five points, reversed the decline, and became the first international female wrestling champion in India’s history. “Offer children some difficult tasks, use their intelligence to solve contradictions and problems and fulfill their tasks in order to make the children get promoted.”[1]

Mahavira was the man who once won a gold medal in nation’s wrestling. Because of living force, he had to abandon the “dream of winning glory for the country”, returned home and became an unknown company clerk. But the national champion never gave up his dream, so he extremely wanted to have a son to continue his dream. Weird twist of fate, his wife gave birth to four girls. When Mahavira felt desperate, a boy beaten by his two daughters rekindled his hope.”Their bodies are flowing with blood of wrestling.” Mahavira as a father did not yield to his fate. Although there is no son to inherit his ambition, as long as the mind trying to do one thing, his two daughters who were given by God can also does the same.

He resigned his work and concentrated on wrestling training of two daughters. The process of training is bitter, from dawn to dark, which is a challenge of the two daughters on both physical and psychological. When the two daughters attended a wedding of a good friend without telling his father, Mahavira was so angry and went to the wedding scene after knowing that. He could not bear indoctrinating her daughter, only to give his nephew a slap on his face. His daughters not only cannot understand his behaviors, but also thought their father was mean to make what was happening more complicated. At this moment, the bride of the wedding who was the best friend of
the two daughters said, “I wish God could have given me a father who treated me as his daughter and considered my future seriously as yours. As for me, I was born to do housework and have to be married to a man who is unknown, just for reducing the burden of my family when I grow up to 14 years old. I have to give birth and raise children to spend my rest of life. I envy you because your father is confronting the world for you, why?”

The theory of social roles proposed by Alice Eagly argues that gender is the basis of division of labor. Men go out to work, women work at home and this division of labor contributes to the expectations of gender roles. [2] In the real world, people may yield to the pressure of life and their own fate. At this point, succumbing or rebelling has become a vital issue. In India, women even do not have the basic right to speak, not to mention the feminist movement awakening in India.

Aamir Khan, the movie star, once accepted an interview and said that he hoped to wake India's feminism to a certain extent and improve the status of women in India’s society through Dangal releasing. Showalter who was one of the most well-known American feminist scholars pointed out clearly in *Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness* that both muted and dominant groups generate beliefs or ordering ideas of social reality at the unconscious level, but dominant groups control the forms or structures in which consciousness can be articulated. Thus muted groups must mediate their beliefs through the allowable forms of dominant structures. And women, if they speak at all, must speak through it.[3] This shows that if women do not want to become "muted" and are able to get their own right to speak, they must make continuous efforts to control the right to speak in the patriarchal society. In addition, the situation is equally worrying of sports sector of Indian. The government allocates funds on sports that are pitiful for every year, with fewer points to the wrestling program, and only one-third of all the wrestling funds for female wrestling. Faced with this reality, most of the Indian athletes have accepted fate.

But there is another possibility of life, you can choose to fight. Mahavira fought against the injustice of women and athletes in India through training her daughters wrestling. Meanwhile, the attitude of the girls also turned from passive acceptance to fight initatively.

What Mahavira wanted to do was not to customize the lives of two daughters, but to teach his daughters to have the courage and not to yield to fate, how to face prejudices of others and have ability to choose their own life by wrestling training.

Two daughters were determined to realize the value of their life through their own efforts. They trained hard consciously and made progress in wrestling rapidly. After that, the father took them to participate in the mud wrestling match even if almost all the audience, players and even the organizers of the tournament had contemptuous attitude towards them. When to select opponents, Geeta picked up the strongest male wrestler.

Geeta damaged to defeat and she won the applause of audience and the highest amount of bonuses. The audience in the stands gave their cheers because they saw that Geeta was a girl who had the wrestling courage and no fear of boys while she was wrestling. When the challenge seems difficult to complete, yield or resistance is a problem. Obviously, Geeta chose the latter one. Yield is the patent of the weaker. Geeta do not want to be weak in front of boys, no more willing to lose.

**The Sign of the Stronger is Getting up**

Geeta did not lose her courage when lost in the first mud wrestling competition, but continued to strengthen the training to improve her wrestling level. The differences of physiological structure between men and women decide the truth that men are more powerful than women under the same circumstances. Geeta did not bow to the mud wrestling field, not to bow to the sex of the girl.

Liang Qichao once said, “The most important thing in life is the will. The career produces out of the strong will no matter how great it is.” [4] Rousseau once said, “The value of a man is determined by himself.” Mahavira's two daughters convinced of this, so they were able to overcome any difficulties and obstacles on the road of wrestling bravely. Gradually, Geeta was unparalleled in the circumstance of wrestling and eventually became a national champion of female wrestling.

At this time, Mahavira was not complacent, but not satisfying with the achievements of his two daughters in wrestling. His dream was expecting his two daughters could win gold medals in the
international wrestling match for India. When the eldest daughter Geeta entered the Patiala Sports
which was the best Indian sports temple, she lost herself gradually. She no longer restrained her
eating habits, stayed long hair and even denied the wrestling skills which were taught by his father.
Wrestling with her father and said, "Daddy, you're old" when Geeta came back home to visit
relatives. In the morning when Geeta returned to the college, she did not find his father's figure in
the farewell crowd and left with sorrow. Meanwhile, from the top floor of the platform, Mahavira
was looking out over his daughter. After Geeta leaving, with a meaningful mood, Mahavira picked
up the medal of the national wrestling champion being displayed on the “Wall of Honor” which was
won by Geeta.

At that time, he has mixed feelings. Geeta lost out to the strongest boy in the wrestling pitch in
her girlhood when she participated in a mud-wrestling match for the first time. When others laughed
at Mahavira, he said, “At least my daughter has learned how to overcome fear.” Liang Qichao once
said: “I always fail to do things. However, I always do while failing”. [5]

After this crackdown, Geeta became more powerful. She summarized the lessons what has learned
and improved her wrestling skills in all aspects constantly. She can give up anything what can
hinder her wrestling. She stand up in the place where she fall from. She has gradually become a
legend that can wrestle all boys on the wrestling field. Mahavira missed Geeta who was full of
spiritual power in the past.

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References