

Ten Threads of Courage: Heroes of History

By Has alam



Long ago, in Britain, lived Queen Boudicca. When her people were treated unfairly by a powerful invading army, she did not hide. With a loud, brave voice and fiery red hair, she rode into battle in her chariot, leading thousands to fight for their freedom and for justice. She showed the world that a queen can also be a fierce protector.



In France, a young farm girl named Joan felt a powerful call to help her country in a time of deep trouble. She was only a teenager! She convinced the King to trust her, and wearing shining armor, she led armies to victory. Joan proved that courage has nothing to do with how old you are.



Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in America. After bravely escaping, she could have stayed safe and free, but she chose to go back. Over and over, she risked everything, guiding hundreds of people to freedom in the darkness. She was called "Moses" because she led her people out of bondage on the secret, winding path called the Underground Railroad.



Rani Lakshmibai was a queen in India who vowed to protect her kingdom from invaders. She was an amazing horseback rider and an even better fighter. She led her troops, often riding with her adopted son tied to her back, refusing to give up her land. Her story is a shining example of fighting for what is right, even when the odds are stacked against you.



In ancient Vietnam, two sisters, Trung Trac and Trung Nhi, were determined to drive out a cruel ruler. They raised an army and fought side-by-side, riding elephants into battle. For three years, they ruled as queens and brought peace and freedom to their people, proving that two sisters working together can change history.



When an outside power demanded the Golden Stool—the sacred symbol of the Ashanti people in Ghana—Queen Mother Yaa Asantewaa spoke up. "If you men will not fight, we women will!" she declared. She led her people in a war to protect their history, their spirit, and their sacred throne, inspiring everyone to defend their culture.



Tomoe Gozen was a legendary onna-musha (woman warrior) in Japan. She was known for her incredible skill with a bow and arrow, and her bravery was unmatched. She rode fearlessly into the most dangerous battles, earning the respect of every samurai she fought alongside. Tomoe was proof that strength and grace can live in the same warrior heart.



Juana Azurduy fought for the independence of South America. She was a brilliant military strategist who even led a cavalry unit entirely made up of women soldiers, known as the "Loyal Ones." Despite loss and hardship, she never gave up the fight for freedom and was honored with a sword by a great liberator.



These ten heroes and so many others teach us that being a leader means standing up for what is right, no matter how scary it seems. Whether you ride a chariot, an elephant, or walk in the dark, the greatest armor you can wear is courage. Which thread of courage will you weave into the world today?