



International Women's Day Debate: Is Bold the New Beautiful?

On 8th March 2018 the ABC ran a debate with a variety of Australian women with the above title.

IS BOLD THE NEW BEAUTIFUL? Or is it the old beautiful? Is to be bold to be inherently ugly?

Stars of radio, television, YouTube and the comedy stage have faced off in front of a studio audience as part of the ABC's second International Women's Day All-Star Debate.

Host Libbi Gorr said the word "bold" was having a resurgence and now being used by people in a positive way.

"Once upon a time, it was only a word that you used when you wanted to say that a woman was a slut; either that or she had an opinion, which back in the day was one and the same thing."

Perhaps the word "BOLSHY" is one that offends people but the definition of "BOLD" is "not hesitating or fearful in the face of actual or possible danger or rebuff; courageous and daring; not hesitating to break the rules of propriety. Bold is being free in behaviour, or prominent. A person not afraid to speak up for what they believe in, even to people with more power than them, or speaking up when you see someone being treated unfairly. When you act in a bold way, you're taking some kind of risk; you could be risking physical danger, embarrassment, or your reputation.. (note many dictionary definitions talk in relation to males!) The word bold in relation to females used to mean pushy or difficult.

How can "BEAUTIFUL" be defined? Beautiful actually comes down to a mathematical equation and has to do with the width between the centre of the eyes over the width of the mouth and that's measured between the distance from the hairline and the chin. In other words it means "pleasing to the eye".

Funnily enough no true definition was given in the debate, but Virginia Trioli certainly kept referring to bravery as beautiful. Dictionaries say beautiful is very attractive, - pleasing the senses or mind aesthetically. Interestingly in her article in the Huffpost "What is the Real

Definition of Beauty?”, its author Lexi Herrick states that “Beauty is happiness. Beauty has varied throughout time, various cultures and the vastly different perceptions of the world. Beauty has been described and depicted through pictures and concepts penetrating our minds. Beauty has been defined in so many ways. What Lexi has discovered is that beauty is simple. Beauty is happiness.”

Judge Judy is renowned for her no-nonsense approach to the law and oft times quotes: "Beauty fades. Dumb is forever." Perhaps her harsh reality words could be re-written as “Superficial Beauty fades but boldness lasts forever”

Certainly Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it’s such a subjective attribute.

There are many pertinent quotes that relate to life and can encompass beauty and boldness and I read this outside the local yoga studio *“We, none of us are victims. Things happen – Life happens Birth, death, crisis and joy – all without our permission. It’s about the story we tell ourselves – how the facts are arranged that will lead to our happiness and contentment.”*

Boldness also pertains to resilience “a modern concept that proposes a recurrent human need to weather periods of stress and change successfully throughout life. The ability to weather each period of disruption and reintegration leaves the person better able to deal with the next change.”

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The three women arguing for the affirmative:

Comedian **Demi Lardner** began by presenting herself as an example of someone who is more bold than beautiful.

"My gender is pretty debatable; physically I don't look so much male or female as chimney sweep," she said.

"I'm kind of a gateway to homosexuality for both genders."

Celebrity cook **Elizabeth Chong** said there was a time when bold was not beautiful, which she said "were dark days for women". She spoke of her grandmother in China having her feet bound, which men saw as beautiful.

"Women were simply chattels, inferior to men; too inferior to vote or own property. Women were to be seen and not heard.

"A good woman was modest and knew her place — that's the kitchen and the bedroom. Elizabeth said BOLD is standing proud and strong. She was taught to be forward thinking, to be brave and courageous. “Whatever you do or dream you can begin in, - boldness has genius, power and magic. A new generation of women in Australia are proving that bold is the new beautiful – watching women play cricket, AFL and perform in the Winter Olympics proves it.

Elizabeth quoted the chorus of Helen Reddy's song 'I AM WOMAN' – "Oh, yes I am wise, but it's wisdom born of pain, yes I've paid the price, but look how much I've gained, I if have to I can do anything, I am strong, I am invincible, I am woman"

"Thank God for bold and beautiful women who fought for the right to vote, for making it possible for women to take their place in the world."

Gina Liano from reality show The Real Housewives of Melbourne and a practising barrister of many decades, said the definition of bold is not to hesitate or be fearful in the face of actual or possible danger. Plus to be courageous and daring with no hesitation to break the rules – in other words FEARLESS. The courage and determination of women over the years has become instrumental in opportunities that have become available to women of the current generation and ones after.

In the past beauty was loads of hairspray and makeup TODAY the new beautiful is intelligence, the courage to speak up and out, women standing in solidarity with women and men every who have been silenced by discrimination harassment or abuse, Women have become bold fearless =, united in speaking out - their voices can no longer be ignored. Many marriages see women silenced, physically and sexually abused. Bold is not just how you look – it's an attitude - it's the new beautiful.

The three women arguing for the negative:

ABC News Breakfast host **Virginia Trioli** began the argument for the negative.

"Bold is to beautiful as Barnaby is to bashful."

Trioli argued that bold described the men whose decades-long abuse of male privilege and power led to the global #metoo movement.

"Those guys were bold as only guys can be, and if that's boldness, count me out."

Comedian **Frida Deguise** spent much of her time skewering modern society's obsession with cosmetic surgery.

"You know when your bold attempt at surgery fails, don't worry — it's nothing a burqa won't fix."

But **Jean Kittson** took the argument for the negative in a completely new direction, arguing there was "good bold" and "bad bold".

Jean Kittson quotes Tina Fey, saying the most important thing about beauty is ... who cares?

"Good bold isn't the new beautiful; good bold has always been beautiful.

"Beauty without boldness leads to botox. Botox is fear made smooth and firm."

She said beauty and boldness shared DNA and together they made beauty that lasted.

"Bold isn't the old beauty, or the new beauty, it's the renewable beauty." Good boldness isn't bullying – beautiful boldness is standing up for yourself and others, matching intimidation with inspiration and it's this that women have always needed and need today!"

As we venture forth as the beautiful and bold women we are, remember:

"God does not give us what we can handle.

God helps us handle what we are given!"

SOME FINE EXAMPLES OF BOLD WOMEN

Many women throughout history are remembered for their courage in adversity but how many women do we remember only for their beauty? Marilyn Monroe, Jackie Kennedy, Brigitte Bardot, Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Miranda Kerr, Elle McPherson.....but what else do we remember them for?? What is their real legacy?

BOLD WOMEN:

A very bold young lady is **Malala Yousafzai** : The Girl Who Stood Up for Education for girls in Pakistan and Was Shot by the Taliban. She wrote a diary using a pseudonym and Changed the World....she became the youngest ever Nobel Prize winner..aged 17. Her philosophy was: if you really want to do something, you can – even with hurdles along your way. At aged 10 determined to go to school and with a firm belief in her right to an education, Malala stood up to the Taliban. Alongside her father, Malala quickly became a critic of their tactics. "How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?" she once said on Pakistani TV. (1997-)

1. **"Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart."** - **Anne Frank (1929-1945)**. During her stay in Netherlands while hiding from the German forces, Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl, was gifted a diary by her father when she was 13. However, her diary was published after her death in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the age of 15. The diary served as a unique eye-witness account of life during Holocaust (mass murder of approximately six million Jews during World War II) and it became one of the world's most read books.
2. **"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."** - **Mother Teresa (1910-1997)**. Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize winner (1979), aimed at looking after those who had nobody to look after them through her own order "The Missionaries of Charity". She worked tirelessly towards her goal until her ill-health - that included two heart attacks, pneumonia and malaria - forced her to step down in March 1997, following which she took her last breath in September 1997.

3. **"In societies where men are truly confident of their own worth, women are not merely tolerated but valued." - Aung Sang Suu Kyi (1945).** Burmese opposition politician Suu Kyi was under house arrest for 15 years for her pre-democracy campaigning. She only gained release in 2010 following an international campaign to let her free. She won a Nobel Prize in 1991 where it was said that "Suu Kyi's struggle is one of the most extraordinary examples of civil courage in Asia in recent decades."
4. **"I thought it would set us back 50 years if I didn't win that match. It would ruin the women's tour and affect all women's self esteem." - Billie Jean King (1943).** Billie Jean King, the US tennis legend and the winner of 20 Wimbledon titles, famously beat Bobby Riggs in 1973 for a \$100,000 prize in "The Battle of the sexes" after he said to her that men were superior athletes.
5. **5. "Everyone needs to be valued. Everyone has the potential to give something back." - Diana (1961-1997), Princess of Wales.** Princess Diana was a well-loved "people's princess". She devoted her life to charity work; she led a Nobel Peace Prize-winning campaign to ban landmines.
6. **"Democracy is the best revenge." - Benazir Bhutto (1953-2007).** She was the 11th Prime Minister of Pakistan (1993-1996) and the first woman to head a Muslim state. During her leadership, she ended military dictatorship in her country and fought for women rights. She was assassinated in a suicide attack in 2007.
7. **"There are still many causes worth sacrificing for, so much history yet to be made." - Michelle Obama (1964).** Michelle Obama, the first lady of the United States, was raised in a one bedroom apartment in Chicago before she went on to excel in academics and study at Princeton and Harvard. She is considered the most stylish leading lady after Jackie Kennedy. Currently, she is working on a campaign to fight childhood obesity.
8. **"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." - Oprah Winfrey (1954).** Oprah, a generous philanthropist, who is today worth \$2.7 billion as a famous US talk show host and a media proprietor, was born to a poor single mother in Mississippi.
9. **"I think one's feelings waste themselves in words; they ought all to be distilled into actions which bring results." - Florence Nightingale (1820-1910).** "The lady with the lamp", Florence Nightingale, nursed wounded soldiers during the Crimean war. Her passion and dedication to the profession changed public's perception about this profession. Her insistence on improving sanitary conditions for the patients is believed to have saved many lives.
10. **"Each coming together of man and wife, even if they have been mated for many years, should be a fresh adventure; each winning should necessitate a fresh wooing." - Marie Stopes (1880-1958).** The British scientist Marie Stopes is best known for her achievements in the fields of birth control and sex education in the 20th century. She publicly addressed romantic and sexual happiness in a marriage, thereby, breaking many barriers in the society.
11. **"Please know that I am aware of the hazards. I want to do it because I want to do it. Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be a**

challenge to others." - Amelia Earhart (1897-1937). Amelia Earhart was the first woman to ever fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932 and she became the first woman pilot in 1935 after flying solo from Hawaii to California. She embarked upon her lifelong dream of flying across the world in 1937, however, her flight went missing on that trip and she was never seen again.

12. **"Fashion fades, only style remains the same." - Coco Chanel (1883-1971).** Chanel was a daughter to a laundrywoman and a market stall holder. Before becoming one of the greatest fashion designers the world has ever seen, she was a club singer and a hat maker.
13. **"Nobody in Europe will be abandoned. Nobody in Europe will be excluded. Europe only succeeds if we work together." - Angela Merkel (1954).** Angela Merkel was appointed as the Chancellor of Germany in 2005 and she happens to be the first female chancellor presiding over the most powerful European economy.
14. **"Hard work keeps the wrinkles out of the mind and spirit." - Helena Rubinstein (1870-1965).** Helena Rubinstein emigrated to Australia in 1902 without any money or the ability to speak in English. Thereafter, she founded one of the world's first cosmetic companies after mixing lanolin, the grease found in merino sheep wool with scented flowers. Following that she became the world's richest woman in process at the time.
15. **"You can bind my body, tie my hands, govern my actions: you are the strongest, and society adds to your power; but with my will, sir, you can do nothing." - George Sand (1804-1876).** George Sand, a 19th century French novelist and essayist was a socialist. She 'shocked' the high society circles by wearing male clothing in public. As a socialist, she started her own newspaper that was published in workers' co-operative.
16. **"If you set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time, and you would achieve nothing." - Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013).** Margaret Thatcher was loved and hated equally for some of her controversial policies but she never gave up. She was known as the 'Iron lady' for her uncompromising politics and leadership style. From being a grocer's daughter to graduating from Oxford University to becoming a barrister, she went on to becoming Britain's first and to date, only female Prime Minister elected in 1979 and the country's fifth longest serving leader.
17. **"We are here not because we are law-breakers; we are here in our efforts to become law-makers." - Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928).** Emmeline, a passionate feminist, was an influential women's activist who fought along with her husband for the rights of the women in late 19th century and early 20th century. After she lost her husband, she teamed up with her three daughters and formed 'The Women's Social and Political Union' - best known as the suffragettes (women's right to vote).
18. **"It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all - in which case, you fail by default." - J.K Rowling (1965).** Breaking through the trap of poverty until she finished writing her first book for the Harry Potter series, J.K. Rowling has now sold 400 million copies worldwide. She went on from living on state benefits in the UK to becoming a multi-millionaire after her book's success in a matter of five years.
19. **"If you obey all the rules you miss all the fun." - Katharine Hepburn (1907-2003).** Katharine Hepburn was known for playing strong-willed women in her film roles. She won four academy awards for Best actress, the most an actress has ever won. Her unconventional non-conformist, masculine style choices made wearing trousers acceptable to women, which was largely considered a taboo at that time.

20. **"A large part of the present anxiety to improve the education of girls and women is also due to the conviction that the political disabilities of women will not be maintained."** - **Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929)**. Millicent Fawcett dedicated her life to peacefully fighting for women's rights but she remained an underrated leader of the suffrage movement (campaign for women to have the vote). She encouraged her politician husband Henry Fawcett to carry on with his work after he was blinded in an accident.
21. **"I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else - I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."** - **Queen Elizabeth II (1926)**. Queen Elizabeth has ruled over the United Kingdom for 60 years now and has presided over the country through some of the most turbulent times.
22. **"In too many instances, the march to globalisation has also meant the marginalisation of women and girls. And that must change."** - **Hillary Rodham Clinton (1947)**. After becoming the first lady of Arkansas in 1983 and then the United States in 1993, Hillary Clinton has been a powerful force in US politics ever since. She was the first 'first lady' to be a candidate in elected office in 1999 (in the race for New York Senator, which she won and served for two terms). She has won numerous awards for her work concerning women, health and children.
23. **"I knew someone had to take the first step and I made up my mind not to move."** - **Rosa Parks (1913-2005)**. Also known as "the first lady of civil rights", the African-American Rosa Parks was a pioneer of civil rights in a racially segregated Alabama in 1950s. In 1955, she refused to give away her seat to a white passenger in a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, thereby, disobeying the bus driver's orders. This act of hers sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott that crippled the state capital's public transport system.
24. **"Forgiveness is a virtue of the brave."** - **Indira Gandhi (1917-1984)**. Indira Gandhi served India as the Prime Minister for 15 years. She paved the way for democracy in India until her assassination in 1984.
25. **"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood."** - **Marie Curie (1867-1934)**. The famously known "Madame Curie", a Polish-French physicist and chemist, was the first person to have received two Nobel Prizes. She was the first female professor at the University of Paris and the first lady to be enshrined in France's national mausoleum, the Paris Panthéon, all based on her own merits.