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Q3

Not all who wander are lost.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Name the echo:** Tolkien - not all who wander are lost
- **One stand:** some wandering is search; some is exile we must not romanticise
- Move through self, knowledge, society, republic. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a compass, not a postcard of the road

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a coaching-town exit that becomes wells. Stand:** search vs exile.
- **Headings:** self, knowledge, migration, state, then one counter.

Earn Tolkien once; Gandhi or Tagore once. Peg Art. 21 or FRA.

Close on a compass.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A boy leaves a coaching town without a rank. Relatives say he is lost. A year later he is mapping wells for a panchayat. He had wandered. He had not vanished. The line is a defence of search - and a warning not to call every displacement a pilgrimage.

One stand

Wandering can be curiosity, dissent, migration, research. Lost is when there is no north - no value, no return, no care. Write to keep a compass in the rucksack.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Wanderer:** leave the script - career, syllabus, majority, a map drawn in Delhi.
- **Lost:** without purpose, without a way home, without rights.
- **Tolkien's rangers:** apparent aimlessness that still serves a realm.

Self

- A gap year that reads is wander. A gap year that only scrolls may be lost.
- **Gandhi's experiments:** wandering as method.

Knowledge

- **Fieldwork, a failed hypothesis, an optional subject changed:** science wanders on purpose.
- **Tagore's** path vs the factory school.

Society

- Pastoral routes, seasonal labour, a student from a small town in a metro - wander that the census barely sees.
- Do not paint the migrant's wait at a station as 'finding herself'.

State

- **Exploration, northeast connectivity, a living constitution:** the republic also wanders into new meanings (**Art. 21**).
- A displaced Adivasi after a dam is not a ranger. Rehabilitation is the compass the state owes.

The counter

Hunger, trafficking, a child out of school - wandering without a net is lostness. The quote rebukes rigid scripts, not the need for a roof.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** pack a compass and still leave the courtyard. Expand each heading - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Tolkien

Not all those who wander are lost - a ranger's line. Name it once; do not fan-fiction the paper.

Gandhi

Experiments with Truth: leaving the safe script as a method, not as drift.

Art. 21

A living meaning of dignity - the republic wandering under a compass.

Seasonal migration

Labour that wanders to eat - do not romanticise the station.

Forest Rights Act

A map that lets people stay with the forest rather than wander as 'lost' after a project.