

Power

By Isabelle Ward



Image Credit: Wikipedia



Throughout history, many individuals have displayed power while going against the status quo and fighting for what they believe in, such as equal rights, freedom, or respect. One example of this occurred during the American Civil War between the United States of America, or the northern states, and the Confederate States of America, or the southern states, from 1861 to 1865 by the 54th regiment, the first African American infantry unit to fight in combat during the war. This unit, and its leader Captain Robert Gould Shaw, were carved into a memorial statue that now sits in Downtown Boston, Massachusetts. This memorial shows Shaw riding a horse with many soldiers walking alongside him, carrying drums, backpacks, bayonets, and other war gear. A female figure is also above the unit's head, flying in the same direction with her arm out as if she is leading them. This memorial visually shows significant power and strength because of the large number of men, their weapons, and their leader, riding high on his horse, ready to lead his unit into battle. This unit is also especially famous for its courage during the war, depicted in the 1989 film *Glory*. The 54th regiment showed people in the north that African Americans could be good soldiers, allowing more African Americans to get enlisted, a job once only allowed for whites. These men also fought against African American discrimination in America and for equal pay. This movement greatly impacted the war's outcome by abolishing slavery, constitutionally guaranteeing African Americans equal rights, and declaring racial discrimination illegal. Without the power and courage of these soldiers, the outcome of the Civil War and America as a whole could have been very different. Another instance of power and strength was shown by my father. This image on the left is one of my father, Dennis, walking in front of me during our trip to Tarifa, Spain, a few months before he passed away in 2017. During this trip, he kept up with my sister and me, climbing mountains, walking tens of miles every day, and even bringing us to the Rock of Gibraltar, where we trekked to the top and watched the sunset. Despite battling Stage 4 Cancer, he never let his illness affect his care and love for us. Over time his pain transformed into power. He wouldn't let anything get in his way of making sure my sister and I made happy memories with him up until the very end. Even though he struggled as his body started to give up on him, he never gave up on us. To me, this is the ultimate demonstration of power, and it has fueled me to be strong, resilient, and courageous just like him.

Citations

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