

## **Brave**

*To be courageous is to be ready to act in defense of your beliefs, or in opposition to beliefs or behaviors that threaten you. Courage is superficially associated with masculine power as it expresses itself in, say, military or athletic prowess. However there is nothing gender specific about courage. Women and children are as able as men to stand up for what they believe. (For that matter, so are bears, foxes, and lymphocytes.)*

### Examples

1

I am a writer, and customarily turn to the vitriol of the pen when confronted or harassed. On two occasions in my life, however, I have been confronted with alpha male force, and reacted like an angry bull. On one occasion, in Greece, I was harassed off a country road by a grain-wagon driver. On another occasion, just returning by boat to the United States from Europe, I was told to get the hell out of the way by a muscular longshoreman who was offloading baggage. In both instances I lashed out with anger, and put myself in the face of the guy who threatened me. I got off easy. One guy backed off, while my wife pulled me away before the other guy got to me. I think I had proved myself courageous, if not actually reckless. And I was emboldened to jump into the lion's den again.

2

I have the courage to tell absolute truth, and in fact do so on many occasions. I have written numerous autobiographies, in which I am very frank about uncomfortable passages in my life. In fact, since I have a confessional streak in me, I should perhaps not call my self-revelations courageous. But I do. Over and beyond what I freely state, about my motives for confession, I confess that one of my life goals is to be brave enough to conceal nothing, so that I can account for myself, at least, when I pass on. I refuse to deny that motive the descriptor courageous.