



## Humble Courage

A Portuguese diplomat saw the hordes of people fleeing the Nazi advance and realized their only route of escape was through his country. If he helped them, he faced punishment from his country. If he did not help, the refugees faced the brutality of the Nazis.

Defying orders, Aristides de Sousa Mendes issued visas for tens of thousands of desperate people.

When his superiors found out, he was fired, denied his pension and barred from practicing law. He and his family lived in poverty, and he died in obscurity years later. Only now is his country recognizing his heroic, and costly, deeds.

“I’d rather be with God against man than with man against God,” Sousa Mendes explained.

It’s been said that courage is not the absence of fear, but the will to do what is right in spite of fear.

Wisdom looks at various choices and thinks through, “If I do this, it will lead to this, which will cause this. ... But if I do that, it will lead to that, which will cause that. ...”

Sometimes one choice can lead to pain and loss for ourselves, risking our own safety and security to help someone else.

Courage weighs the choices and commits to do what is right despite the consequences. It recognizes that there is something more important than whatever suffering will be experienced.

Courage is doing what is needed without expecting applause or rewards, but grounds itself in the hope that, by doing God’s will, others will benefit.

*Wendy Wright*

### HOW TO REACH US

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