

Bow to Zod!

By Ali Darwish

Walking in the shadow of important people does not necessarily make one important, and rubbing shoulders with great people will necessarily create subjects and subordinates. Throughout history, this has been the case with rules, kings, leaders, dictators, despots, celebrities, idols and slaves. Down with the king! Long live the king!

Invariably, the importance of people is derived from their significance and the more significance we attach to people the more important they seem to us and the more attached we become to them. A person is as good as the next person is bad. In most situations, their goodness or greatness, their badness or insignificance is relative. In the laws of physics, strength, power, importance and influence are all relative within their inertial frames of reference. Undefeated American martial artist Joe Lewis was once asked why he had to “win” by disqualification when he could easily win with points and within the rules. His answer was (roughly, from my fading memory): I do not want to be a poster on the bedroom wall of some fan; only to be taken down when the fan got better than me. Most people never make this transition and remain enslaved by the notion of importance of people of status and a poster on their bedroom wall or a framed picture on their desk.

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