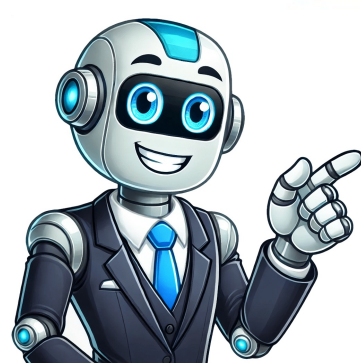


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in London, succeeded in helping Albert conquer his problem. In 1936, Albert's father died and his brother, Edward, succeeded him. Edward was in love with Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American. He wanted to marry her, but it was against the law. Rather than give her up, he abdicated the throne later that year, explaining to the nation: "I have found it impossible to carry on the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge the duties of king, as I would wish to do, without the help and support of the woman I love." Albert was crowned in 1937. He decided to take the name George VI to emphasize continuity with his father and restore confidence in the monarchy. King George VI was faced with World War II. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain had met with Adolph Hitler and signed the Munich Pact. In so doing, he believed Britain would be able to avoid war, but Hitler ignored the pact and attacked Poland. Britain declared war on Germany and in 1940 Winston Churchill replaced Chamberlain. King George VI made visits to France, North America, and the United States. Franklin Roosevelt, President of the United States, had maintained an isolationist policy. After Japan entered the war and bombed Pearl Harbour, the United States entered the war. The King and Roosevelt developed a cohesive relationship. King George VI had been saddled with myriad illnesses throughout his life and the war took a toll on his health. His penchant for smoking didn't help and resulted in lung cancer and subsequent lung removal. In 1952, he died of coronary thrombosis. He was interred in King George VI Memorial Chapel inside St. George's Chapel. Elizabeth's education was supervised by her mother and several governesses. History, language, literature, music, and French were among her studies. During World War II, as the bombs fell, her parents remained in London as role models for the people. In 1940, Elizabeth made her first radio broadcast during the BBC's Children's Hour addressing children who had been evacuated from the cities. In 1947, she married Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark. He converted to Anglicism and was given the title Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Elizabeth traveled throughout the world on her father's behalf. Her uncle, Edward, had abdicated the throne and her father had become king. She was heir presumptive and in 1952 while visiting Kenya for her father, he died. She became Queen and was crowned in 1953. Since 1931 the British Empire had begun changing to a Commonwealth. South Africa had left the Commonwealth in 1961, but it rejoined in 1994. In 1980, it came under scrutiny for its practice of 'apartheid'. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister during that time, didn't endear herself to Elizabeth or the country when she vacillated on her decision to sanction South Africa for its practices. In 1998, peace came to Northern Ireland after many years of turmoil. In 2012, Elizabeth shook hands with ex Irish Republican Army (IRA) leader, Martin McGuinness. Elizabeth died on 8 September 2022, having spent 70 years on the throne. She is succeeded by her eldest son, King Charles III. Britons champion the values of service, duty, steadfastness, charity, and stoicism. Elizabeth demonstrated them all throughout her reign. May she rest in peace. People from all walks of life have celebrated Elizabeth's life and reign with inspiring words. They include: "She was an inspiring presence to be around. I've been around her and she was fantastic. And she led the country through some of our greatest and darkest moments with grace, decency and a genuine caring warmth." Elton John There was "nothing more noble than to devote your life to the service of others" Apple CEO Tim Cook I was "struck by her warmth, the way she put people at ease, and how she brought her considerable humour and charm to moments of great pomp and circumstance." Barack Obama "We have lost not just our monarch but the matriarch of our nation" Tony Blair "Her dedication and devotion as Sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration, and through times of sadness and loss." King Charles III It should be noted that the above-mentioned men and women were not Gods, but just human beings with imperfections and conflicting thoughts and emotions, but, as the many statues and monuments seem to attest, their greatness stemmed from two qualities: their ability to use 'good judgment' and 'kindness' on enough occasions that helped preserve the crown, keep it stable, and enhance the overall advancement of the British people.