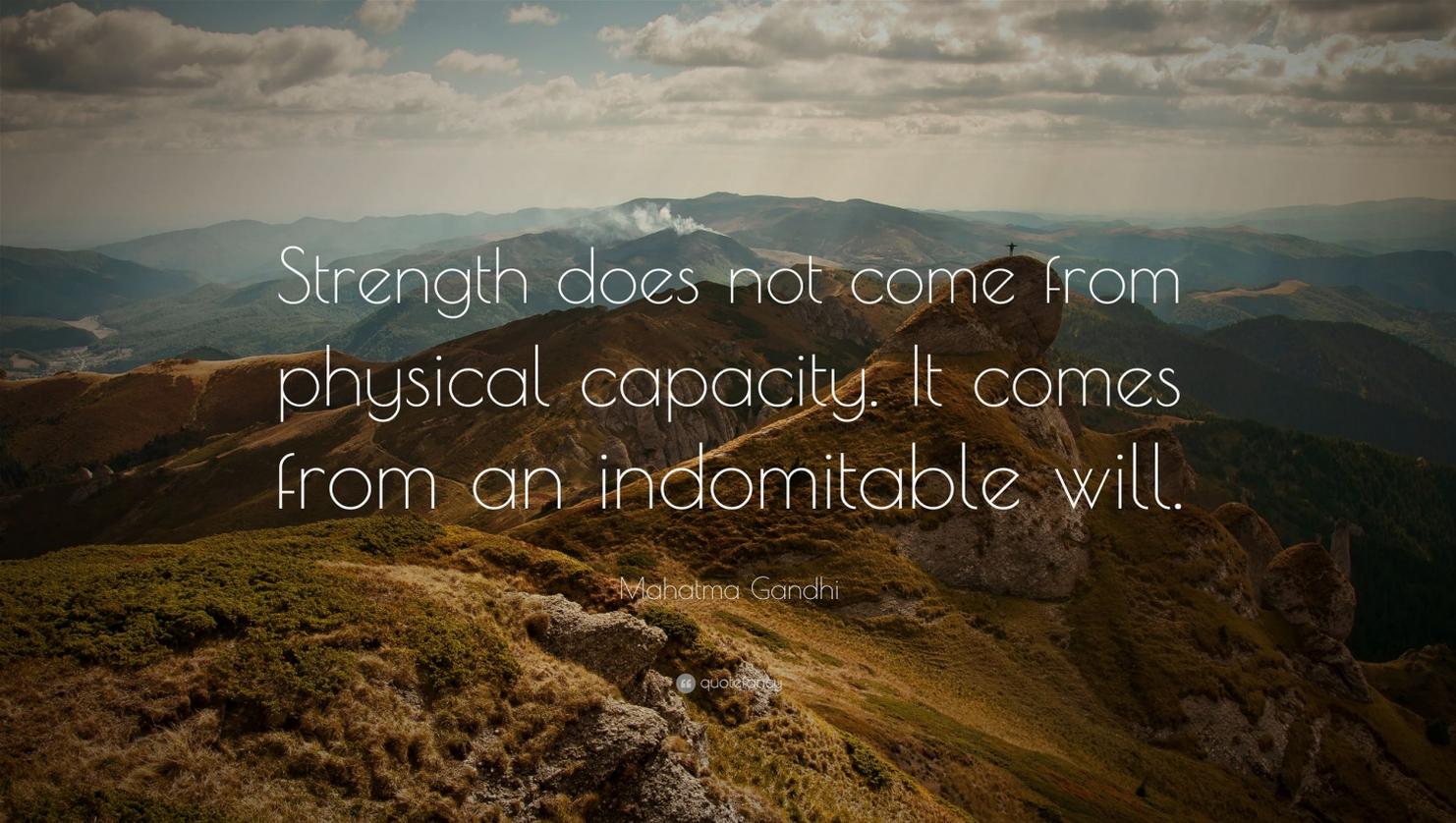


Strength





Strength does not come from
physical capacity. It comes
from an indomitable will.

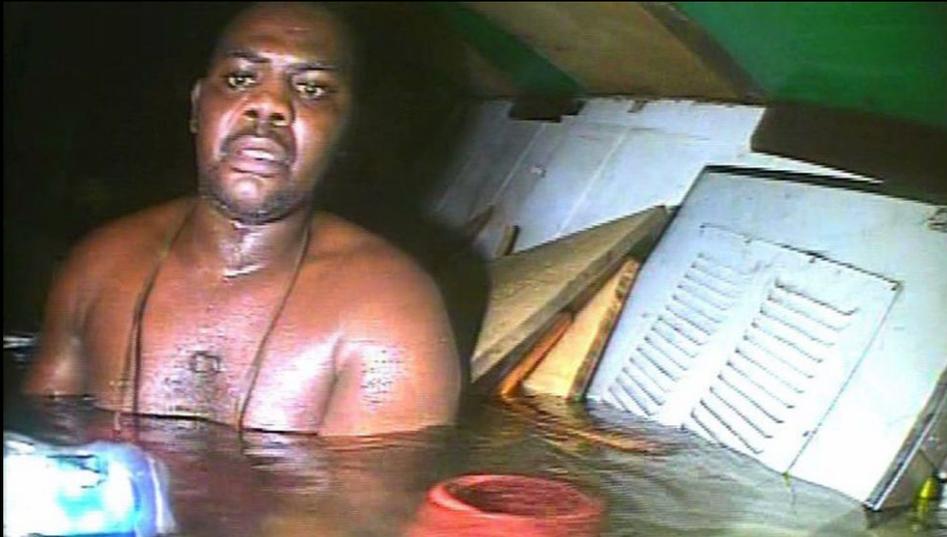
Mahatma Gandhi

 quoteCandy

Harrison Okene

On May 28, 2013, divers in the wreckage of the Jacson-4 were attempting a triage of the vessel, which 100 feet down off the coast of Nigeria after capsizing. What they didn't expect to find was a survivor.

Harrison Okene was the ship's cook. He was in the latrine when the boat capsized, and tried to reach an emergency exit hatch but failed. The boat began to fill with water with Okene trapped inside. Eventually, he found himself trapped with a four square foot bubble of air.



After three days, he had given up hope. Then he heard a knock. It was the hammer of the divers working on the surface of the ship. Eventually, diving gear was brought to him and he was brought to a decompression chamber, where he had to spend two days. He had been at depths that should have killed him in a situation that took the lives of everyone else on board.

Unsurprisingly, he vowed never to go out to sea again.

Ernest Shackleton

Ernest Shackleton had braved the south pole once, and was ready to face it head on again in 1914, setting out with a group of 28 men. They hoped to make it all the way across the continent, arriving to a waiting ship at the other side. Instead, they became hopelessly trapped in the ice as their ship, the Endurance, fell apart.



Eventually, supplies began to dwindle, and the men took to their lifeboats, floating to an island that took 14 days in bitter Antarctic Seas to reach. From there, they had to mount another expedition to South Georgia Island, the nearest inhabited island, nearly 1,000 miles from their original starting point.

Despite multiple hardships, all 28 men on the mission survived, though some of the dogs weren't so lucky (and were eaten as food supplies ran low.) Not as fortunate was the ship waiting on the other side of Antarctica, the Ross Sea Party, which experienced three deaths.

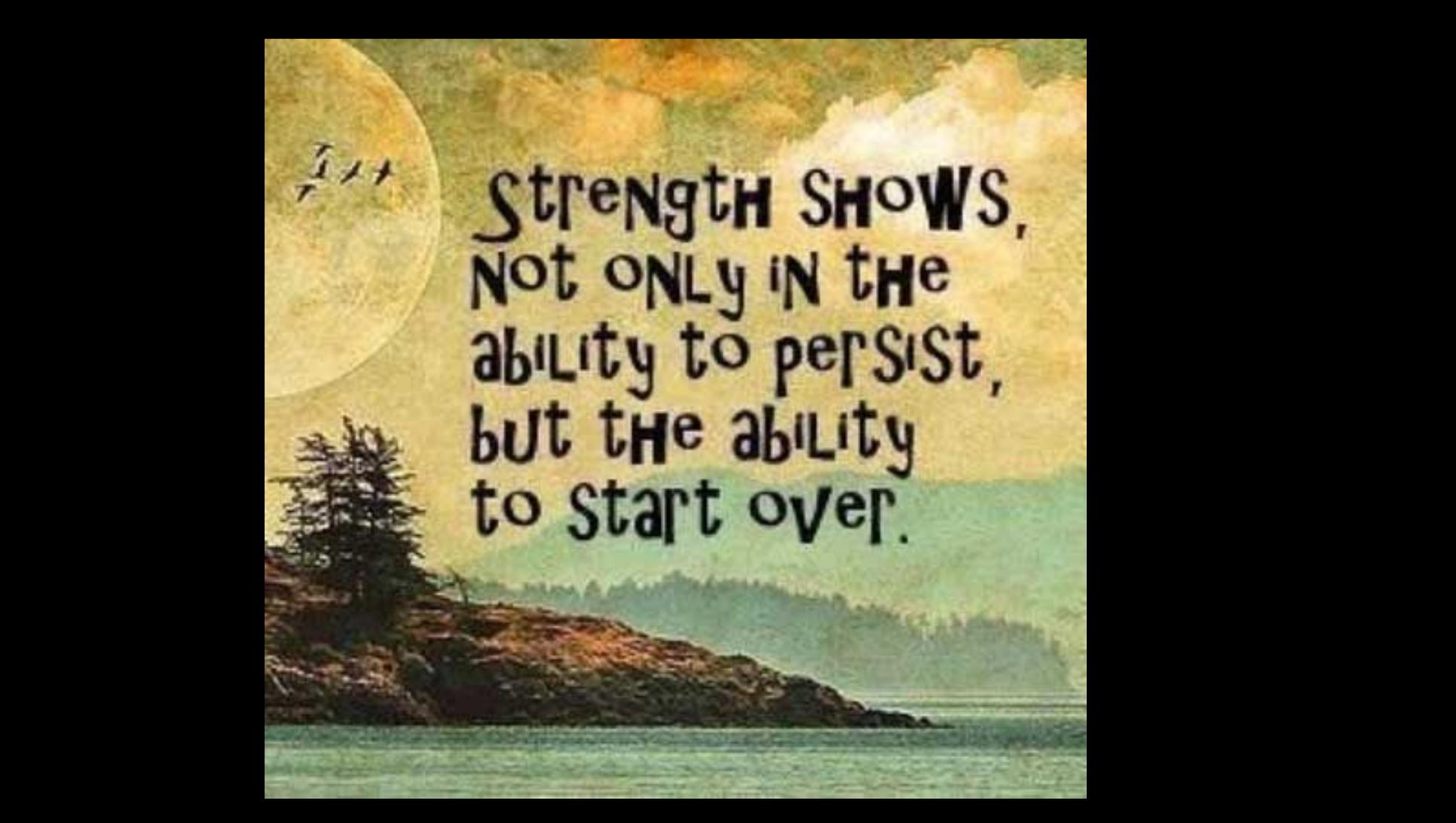
Juliane Koepcke

Juliane Koepcke had two big survival stories to tell by the end of her ordeal. On Christmas Eve 1971, Koepcke flew on LANSA Flight 508. The plane was struck by lightning. The plane began to disintegrate in midair, and Koepcke found herself still strapped to her seat—two miles above the Peruvian rain forest. She was battered. She was bruised. Her collarbone was broken. But she was alive—the only survivor of the flight. And now, she found herself in the wilderness alone. Some candy was her only food, but she found a small stream. She waded downwater in it, able to keep herself hydrated at the same time.



The insects in the jungle stopped short of eating her alive and maggots had infected her arm, but after nine days, she was able to find an encampment. She gave herself rudimentary first aid, including pouring gasoline on the maggot infestation. A few hours later, lumber workers found her, giving her first aid and taking her to a more inhabited area where she was airlifted to a hospital.

Her story was eventually told in the 2000 documentary *Wings of Hope* by director Werner Herzog, who had a seat booked on that very flight before cancelling at the last minute.



STRENGTH SHOWS,
NOT ONLY IN THE
ABILITY TO PERSIST,
BUT THE ABILITY
TO START OVER.