

“What is it, to be a hero?”

I was asked to choose a national hero for this assignment. At first, I didn't know which one to choose, since Portugal has its share of magnificent personalities, who have changed our country in ways we cannot even imagine. So, after my initial doubt I started to wonder what being a hero meant to me. What are the fundamental characteristics that a person must have to be considered a hero? So, I came to the conclusion that it has to be a person that against all the possible odds never gives up fighting for what he believes in and actually tries to make a change not just for himself, but for a lot of people and manages to make a real change in everybody's lives in something that will last forever. So, even if many could fit this description there was one that came to my mind almost instantly, the hero that had these many virtues, is Carolina Beatriz Ângelo.



Carolina Beatriz Ângelo was the first in all kind of things. She was the first doctor operating in Hospital São José in Lisbon, she was the first woman to be called head of household, and she was the first woman to vote in Portugal. She was a feminist and a suffragette. The step Beatriz Ângelo decided to take, an important and risky step, allowed women in Portugal to start to think about their rights as human beings. She didn't just limit herself to vote, she found a breach in the law, in order to be able to legally vote and start a movement that helped women to have more opportunities in all aspects of life.

So, answering the initial question: for me a hero is someone just like Beatriz Ângelo, someone who is not afraid to try to change things despite how hard it may seem. She is someone who changed the destiny of a lot of individuals in Portugal for the best and allowed many people to have more opportunities and to live a more independent life. I believe if all of us had just a bit of the courage Beatriz Ângelo had, we could fight for what we believe in and develop several sectors of our community and change the world around us for the better.

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