

MY COUNTRY AS A HERO

There are so many heroes with such different stories of life and heroism. When we talk of a hero, we always think about a man or a woman. Those people have all my respect. Their life stories are amazing, and they are such role models. However, I want to talk about a so-called ‘collective hero’: Portugal. I just loved *Os Lusíadas* by Luís Vaz de Camões, where he sings about Portugal and its achievements, during the-Discoveries.

Portugal has evolved since it was the Portucalense County and so much has been achieved. What about D. Afonso Henriques, who fought his mother for loyalty towards his country? What about those who left their families knowing that adventuring into the sea would be dangerous? This little country in the Iberian Peninsula has discovered the world. Portugal adventured itself into the sea sailing it only with three ships. How brave, how courageous is it when they knew almost nothing about the sea? Of course, and as many countries, Portugal is not perfect. It has its merits and flaws, but it is my country and I, as Portuguese, can say that my country has discovered the world.

‘What is it to be a hero?’ There is no doubt that those who are humble, kind and good to people are heroes. But, with what I said, I believe that heroes are also those who put their lives at risk for the greater good. I believe it is someone who puts others above himself.

By João Pereira