

An Important Job

I am not a very important man,
 as importance is commonly rated.
 I do not have great wealth, control a big business
 or occupy a position of great honour or authority.
 Yet, I may some day mould destiny;
 for it is within my power
 to become the most important man in the world
 in the life of a boy.
 All about me are boys,
 they are the makers of history, the builders of tomorrow.
 If I, by being faithful to the aims of Scouting,
 can become a true leader,
 I may prove to be the most important man in their lives.

A hundred years from now
 it will not matter what my bank account was,
 the sort of house I lived in,
 or the kind of car I drove.
 But, the world may be different
 Because I was important in the life of a boy.

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B.P.'s Final Message to Leaders

Scouting's aim is to produce healthy, happy, helpful citizens, of both sexes, to eradicate the prevailing narrow self-interest, personal, political, sectarian, and national, and to substitute for it a broader spirit of self-sacrifice and service in the cause of humanity; and thus to develop mutual goodwill and cooperation not only within our own country but abroad, between all countries.

Experience shows that this consummation is no idle or fantastic dream, but is a practical possibility - if we work for it; and it means, when attained, peace, prosperity, and happiness for all.

Hundreds of thousands of boys and girls who are learning our ideals today will be the fathers and mothers of millions in the near future, in whom they will in turn inculcate the same ideals - provided that these are really and unmistakably impressed upon them by their leaders of today.

Therefore you, who are Scouters and Guiders, are not only doing a great work for your neighbors' children but are also helping in practical fashion to pass God's Kingdom of peace and goodwill upon earth.

So, from my heart, I wish you God-speed in your effort.

Robert S.S. Baden-Powell

Indian Worship

Whenever, in the course of the daily hunt, the hunter comes upon a scene that is strikingly beautiful, or sublime - a black thundercloud with the rainbow's glowing arch above the mountain, a white waterfall in the heart of a green gorge, a vast prairie tinged with the blood-red of the sunset - he pauses for an instant in the attitude of worship.

He sees no need for setting apart one day in seven as a holy day, because to him all days are God's days.

About the Author: Charles Alexander Eastman (Ohiyesa) Santee Sioux (1858-1939).

An author and the first native American physician. He was born in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Received a B.S. degree from Dartmouth and attended medical school at Boston University. Was instrumental in founding the Boy Scouts of America and Campfire Girls. Died in Detroit, Michigan.

Alas, Poor Scapegoat, Thy Name is Leader

If a leader writes a letter ... It is too long.
 If he sends a postcard ... It is too short.
 If he sends a bulletin ... It is too expensive.
 If he calls a meeting ... He is wasting time.
 If he does not call a meeting ... He is a "know it all".
 If attendance at the meeting is slack ... He should have phoned all the members
 If he does telephone them ... He is a pest.
 If he asks where the money went ... He is insulting.
 If he does not ... He is not interested.
 If a function is a huge success ... The Committee gets the praise.
 If it is a failure ... He is to blame.
 If he asks for advice ... He is incompetent.
 If he does not ... He is trying to run the show.

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
 If others won't do it,
 The leader must.

A Scoutmaster's Prayer

The following prayer was written by a Scoutmaster after finding out that one of his previous Scouts was missing in action in a war:

A little boy came knocking at my Scout room door,
 An awfully little fellow just twelve and no more.
 His eyes danced as he watched my gang at rowdy play.
 "I would like to be a Scout," he said, "I'm 12 just yesterday."
 In the weeks to come he found his place, a trim young Scout he made.
 The tests he passed with eagerness, a thorough job sure paid.
 The oath, the laws, the knots and flag, were taken to his heart.
 A better man he was sure to be tho he'd just begun to start.
 By the candle-lighted darkness I watched his round face beam
 As the oath and law he pledged to keep-just like a prayer it seemed.
 The years to come were happy ones as we followed the trail-
 That greater men had laid for us far up were eagles sail.
 I watched him grow from boy to man, the days were far too few,
 To try and teach the important things that Scouting said were true.
 I didn't know so long ago our nation he would defend,
 I only saw a job to do, a helping hand to lend.
 Now he's flying higher still with silver wings up there.
 I pray to God the job I did was better than just fair.
 He thanked me once for what I did so many years ago.
 It was not his thanks that paid me because he did not know
 That greater thanks he'd given me a thousand times before
 By his dancing eyes and smiling face-could one ask for more?
 There are other boys a-knocking, I must invite them in.
 Please, God, give me strength to make them better men.

-Scoutmaster Buck Burshears
 Koshare Indian Dancers
 LaJunta, Colorado

The Best Leaders

Of the best leaders, the people only know that they exist;
The next best, they love and praise;
The next, they fear;
And the next, they revile.
When they do not command the people's faith,
Some will lose faith in them,
And then they resort to recrimination,
But of the best, when their task is accomplished,
Their work done,
The people all remark: "We have done it ourselves."

Leadership

The boss drives his men; the leader coaches them.

The boss depends upon authority; the leader on goodwill.
The boss inspires fear; the leader inspires enthusiasm.
The boss says, "I"; the leader says, "We."
The boss assigns the tasks; the leader sets the pace.
The boss says, "Get here on time"; the leader gets there ahead of time.
The boss fixes the blame for the breakdown; the leader fixes the breakdown.
The boss knows how it is done; the leader shows how.
The boss makes work a drudgery; the leader makes it a game.
The boss says, "Go"; the leader says, "Let's go."
The world needs leaders; but nobody wants a boss.

-Dora E Dodge

The Spirit of Rover Scouting - "God's Grandeur"

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will gleam out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil crushed."

-Gerard Manley Hopkins

The Spiritual Basis of Rover Scouting

"Nothing very much matters save the great Spirit of
Strength which supports the world and Love which
guides and directs it. I mean God, our Wonderful, all-
pervading Scout Friend. He is with Scouting and Scouting
comes from Him. Scouts then have nothing to fear.
Service, Sacrifice and Victory is theirs, and all is well
with them now and for ever."

-Roland Philipps

BP Quotes

"It always seems to me so odd that when a man dies he takes out
with him all the knowledge that he got in his lifetime whilst
sowing his wild oats or winning successes."

-B.P.

"Rovering, to my mind, is a definite step forward in the
direction for which we all aim. The promotion of God's Kingdom
of Peace on Earth and Goodwill among men."

-B.P.

Frontispiece - Rovering to Success



This picture-chart of your voyage to success shows some of the bigger rocks that you have to look out for.

They may loom up dark, but don't forget that the sunny spot for which you are aiming lies beyond them, so if you get round them they have got their bright side too.

You will find it if only you don't let yourself be carried on to them, but navigate yourself wisely past them.

By this I mean two comforting things.

There is a bright side to the darkest rock; and there is a reward for being active in working your own success instead of passively drifting to ruin - you gain 'character' as you round each rock and you gain your goal of Happiness in the end.

N.B. - See that star high up in the sky? Hitch your wagon on to that. Take the star as your guide. In other words, "Aim high."

-B.P. from "Rovering To Success"

P.S. The Rocks are: Horses, Gambling, Wine, Women, and Irreligion.

Rover Scout

I call upon you as a Rover Scout

to enter into life as into a joyous adventure,

facing difficulty with a smile and lending a

hand in helpful Service unto others.

Author: (Charles Maclean)

To An Old Camper

You may think, my dear, when you grow quite old,
You have left camp days behind,
But I know the scent of wood smoke
Will always call to mind
Little fires at twilight
And trails, you used to find.

You may think some day you have quite grown up,
And feel so worldly wise,
But suddenly from out of the past
A vision will arise,
Of merry folk with brown, bare knees
And laughter in their eyes.

You may live in a house built to your taste
In the nicest part of town,
But some day for your old camp togs
You'd change your latest gown,
And trade it all for a balsam bed
Where the stars all night look down.

You may find yourself grown wealthy,-
Have all that gold can buy,
But you'd toss aside a fortune
For days 'neath an open sky,
With sunlight on blue water
And white clouds sailing high.

For once you have been a camper
Then something has come to stay
Deep in your heart forever
Which nothing can take away,
And heaven can only be heaven
With a camp in which to play.

-Mary S. Edgar

A Little Fellow Follows Me

A careful man I ought to be,
A little fellow follows me.
I dare not go astray,
For fear he'll go the self-same way.
I cannot once escape his eyes.
Whatever he sees me do he tries.
Like me, he says, he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.
He thinks that I am good and fine.
Believes in every word of mine.
The base in me he must not see,
That little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go,
Thru summers' sun and winters' snow,
I am building for the years to be,
In that little chap who follows me.

How to be Happy through Rich or Poor.

A canoe trip is like the voyage of life.
 An old 'un ought to hand on piloting hints.
 The only true Success is Happiness.
 Two steps to Happiness are: Taking life as a game
 and giving out Love.
 The Burmese are an example of a happy people.
 Happiness is not mere pleasure nor the outcome of wealth.
 It is the result of active work rather than the passive
 enjoyment of pleasure.
 Your success depends on your own individual effort in
 The voyage of life.
 And the avoidance of certain dangerous Rocks.
 Self-education, in continuation of what you have learned
 at school, is necessary.
 Go forward with confidence.
 Paddle your own canoe!

-B.P. from "Rovering To Success"

Listen, Campers

Listen to God as He speaks to you:
 Through the wind in swaying trees and waving grasses.
 Through the silence of the deep forest.
 Through the ripple of small waves on a lake shore and
 thundering breakers on a boulder strewn beach.
 Through a sunset when "morning stands tip-toe on the frosty
 mountain top."
 Through the soft radiance of a full moon that quiets the
 spirit and soothes the heart.
 Through a diamond studded sky - the borderland of an
 unfathomable immensity of space.
 Through the "music of the spheres" as they move unerringly in
 their orbits.
 Through the wood thrush's twilight love call, rivaling the
 notes of the finest flutist.
 Through beauty without blemish which abounds in a perfect
 harmony of colors in birds, flowers, insects, crystal and
 gems.
 Through the laughter of innocent children, the sweetest of all
 music.
 Through the self-sacrificing love of a wild creatures for
 their young.
 Is not such love more that instinct? They are God's Creatures,
 too.

God speaks to you not only through nature. You may hear His voice:
 As you look meditatively into the campfire "when the ashes
 start to whiten 'neth the embers' crimson glow."
 When your soul is stirred by a worship service that gives life
 a new dimension for you.
 When you are moved to do someone you dislike a kindness - when
 you are suddenly inclined to return good for evil.
 When, during one of those high moments of inspiration, you
 gain a new awareness of God and His will for you.

Yes, campers, God speaks to you. Listen!

- C. Walton Johnson

Meditation Time

When the woods are steeped in silence,
No more singing to be heard
And the childish laughter ceases,
Not a sound, no not a word.
And the embers of the campfire,
That danced with flames so gay,
Are now fading into blackness
Or to ashes, dull and gray.
When I sit here and listen,
And feel so all alone,
Where my charges all, are sleeping
In this spot, away from home.
Then my heart is filled with wonder.
Troubled world I've always known,
Seems to fade into the shadows,
In this wild wood, where I roam.
Happy hearts are sleeping near me,
Soon I'll tumble into bed
And I'll feel the glow of friendship
As I rest my weary head.
Through the sun will see me rising,
Needing sleep, I have no doubt,
All my world will fill to brimming
As they start to tumble out.
As the happy chatter gathers,
As the grass dries of its dew.
Then it is, I'll know life's reason,
In a bond that's strong and true.

-William R. Ray

On Spirituality

The common misunderstanding is to think spirituality means "religion", and sometimes, a specific religion. At its heart, spirituality has to do with meaning.

Why am I here?

What am I going to become?

What is creative; what is destructive?

What do I have to do in order to get along happily with other people, and to enjoy God's creation and God's friendship?

All people ask spiritual questions, and those who are younger tend to look to those who are older for help in finding answers. We cannot necessarily give them the answers for their lives, but we can help them as they try to sort out their meanings. We can listen to their concerns, and we can ask questions and make suggestions based on our own experience.