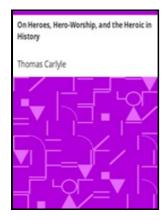
# On heroes, hero-worship, & the heroic in history

University of California Press - On Heroes, Hero Worship, and the Heroic in History/Lecture  $\mbox{\it V}$ 



Description: -

Hero worship

HeroesOn heroes, hero-worship, & the heroic in history

Eighteenth century -- reel 1328, no. 17.

The Norman and Charlotte Strouse edition of the writings of Thomas

CarlyleOn heroes, hero-worship, & the heroic in history

Notes: Includes bibliographical references and index.

This edition was published in 1993



Filesize: 48.91 MB

Tags: #On #Heroes, #Hero #Worship #and #the #Heroic #in #History #Quotes #by #Thomas #Carlyle

#### Thomas Carlyle, On Heroes and Hero

At bottom we do not yet know; we can never know at all. And now, if we still admire such a man beyond all others, what must these wild Norse souls, first awakened into thinking, have made of him! Neither had Thor any battle: for, lo, in the morning it turned out that the noisehad been only the snoring of a certain enormous but peaceable Giant, the GiantSkrymir, who lay peaceably sleeping near by; and this that they took for a house wasmerely his Glove, thrown aside there; the door was the Glove-wrist; the little closetthey had fled into was the Thumb! The Valkyrs; and then that these Choosers lead the brave to a heavenly Hall of Odin; only the base and slavish being thrust elsewhither, into the realms of Hela the Deathgoddess: I take this to have been the soul of the whole Norse Belief. He was forty before he talked of any mission from Heaven.

#### Thomas Cartyle on heroes and hero worship Example

Thought of the mind dissemination largely depends on the courage and elimination of fear is a major determinant of manhood. The giganticimage of his natural face, legible or not legible there, expanded and confused in thatmanner! Superior sincerity far superior consoles us for the total want of old Grecian grace. He is under the noble necessity of being true.

#### On Heroes, Hero

In wakeful nights, as one may fancy, the wild soul of the man, tossing amid these vortices, would hail any light of a decision for them as a veritable light from Heaven; any making-up of his mind, so blessed, indispensable for him there, would seem the inspiration of a Gabriel.

## On Heroes, Hero

Yes, from Norse Odin to English Samuel Johnson, from the divine Founder of Christianity to the withered Pontiff of Encyclopedism, in all times and places, the Hero has been worshipped. People of quality disguise themselves as tavern-waiters.

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