

# THEODORE ROOSEVELT

SELECTED AND ARRANGED  
BY  
TYLER NAUS

We need intellect, and there is no reason why we should not have it together with character; but if we must choose between the two we choose character without a moment's hesitation.

(The North American Review, 1895)

The worst lesson that can be taught a man is to rely upon others and to whine over his sufferings.

(How Not to Better Social., 1897)

Let us speak courteously, deal fairly, and keep ourselves armed and ready.

(Address in San Francisco, CA, 1903)

The life of toil and effort, of labor and strife; to preach that highest form of success which comes, not to the man who desires mere easy peace, but to the man who does not shrink from danger, from hardship or from bitter toil, and who out of these wins the splendid ultimate triumph.

(The Strenuous Life, 1899)

We do not admire the man of timid peace. We admire the man who embodies victorious effort; the man who never wrongs his neighbor, who is prompt to help a friend, but who has those virile qualities necessary to win in the stern strife of actual life.

(The Strenuous Life, 1899)

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory

nor defeat.

(The Strenuous Life, 1899)

We cannot avoid meeting great issues. All that we can determine for ourselves is whether we shall meet them well or ill.

(The Strenuous Life, 1899)

Bodily vigor is good, and vigor of intellect is even better, but far above both is character.

(Character and Success, 1900)

Of course this does not mean that either intellect or bodily vigor can safely be neglected. On the contrary, it means that both should be developed, and that not the least of the benefits of developing both comes from the indirect effect which this development itself has upon the character.

(Character and Success, 1900)

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

(Citizenship in a Republic, 1910)

Shame on the man of cultivated taste who permits refinement to develop into fastidiousness that unfits him for doing the rough work of a workaday world.

(Citizenship in a Republic, 1910)

It is of far more importance that a man shall play something for himself, even if he plays it badly, than that he shall go with hundreds of companions to to see some one else play well..

(Address to Harvard Students)

The excessive development of city life in modern industrial civilization which has seen its climax here in our own country, is accompanied by a very unhealthy atrophy-ing of some of the essential virtues, which must be embodied in any man who is to be a good soldier, and which, especially, ought to be embodied in every man to be a really good citizen in time of peace.

(Army-Navy-Air Force Register., 1910)

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