

"The White Man's Burden"

By Rudyard Kipling

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THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

By Rudyard Kipling.

1 Take up the White Man's burden--
2 Send forth the best ye breed--
3 Go, bind your sons to exile
4 To serve your captives' need;
5 To wait, in heavy harness
6 On fluttered folk and wild--
7 Your new-caught sullen peoples,
8 Half devil and half child.

9 Take up the White Man's burden--
10 In patience to abide,
11 To veil the threat of terror
12 And check the show of pride;
13 By open speech and simple,
14 An hundred times mad plain,
15 To seek another's profit
16 And work another's gain.

17 Take up the White Man's burden--
18 The savage wars of peace--
19 Fill full the mouth of Famine
20 And bid the sickness cease;
21 And when your goal is nearest
22 (The end for others sought)
23 Watch sloth and heathen folly
24 Bring all your hope to nought.

25 Take up the White Man's burden--
26 No iron rule of kings,
27 But toil of serf and sweeper--
28 The tale of common things.
29 The ports ye shall not enter,
30 The roads ye shall not tread,
31 Go make them with your living
32 And mark them with your dead.

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33 Take up the White Man's burden--

34 And reap his old reward--
35 The blame of those ye better,
36 The hate of those ye guard--
37 The cry of hosts ye humour
38 (Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--
39 "Why brought ye us from bondage,
40 Our loved Egyptian night?"

41 Take up the White Man's burden--
42 Ye dare not stoop to less--
43 Nor call too loud on freedom
44 To cloak your weariness.
45 By all ye cry or whisper,
46 By all ye leave or do,
47 The silent sullen peoples
48 Shall weigh your God and you.

49 Take up the White Man's burden!
50 Have done with childish days--
51 The lightly proffered laurel,
52 The easy ungrudged praise:
53 Comes now, to search your manhood
54 Through all the thankless years,
55 Cold edged with dear-bought wisdom,
56 The judgment of your peers.

