

# The BEACON

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Edited by John Cripps

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## THE END OF GREAT MEN.

HAPPENING to cast my eyes upon a printed page of miniature portraits, I perceived that the four personages who occupied the four most conspicuous places, were *Alexander, Hannibal, Cesar, and Bonaparte*. I had seen the same unnumbered times before, but never did the same sensations arise in my bosom, as my mind hastily glanced over their several histories.

**ALEXANDER**, after having climbed the dizzy heights of his ambition, and with his temples bound with chaplets dipped in the blood of countless nations, looked down upon a conquered world and wept that there was not another world for him to conquer, set a city on fire, and died in a scene of debauch.

**HANNIBAL**, after having, to the astonishment and consternation of Rome, passed the Alps; after having put to flight the armies of this Mistress of the World, and stripped three bushels of gold rings from the fingers of her slaughtered knights, and made her very foundation quake--fled from his country, being hated by those who once exultingly united his name to that of their god, and called him *Hanni Baal*--and died at last by poison administered by his own

hands, unlamented and unwept, in a foreign land.

**CESAR**, after having conquered eight hundred cities, and dyed his garments in the blood of one million of his foes--after having pursued to death the only rival he had on earth--was miserably assassinated by those he considered his nearest friends, and in that very place the attainment of which had been his greatest ambition.

**BONAPARTE**, whose mandate Kings and Popes obeyed--after having filled the earth with the terror of his name--after having deluged Europe with tears and blood, and clothed the world in sackcloth--closed his days in lonely banishment, almost literally exiled from the world, yet where he could sometimes see his country's banner waving over the deep, but which would not or could not bring him aid!

Thus those four men, who, from the peculiar situations of their portraits, seemed to stand as the representatives of all those whom the world calls *great*--those four who each in turn made the earth tremble to its very centre by their simple tread, severally died--one by intoxication, or, as some suppose, by poison

mingled in his wine--one a suicide--one murdered by his friends--and one in lonely exile!--"How are the mighty fallen!"

- From The Compiler 1830

## PROMISE YOURSELF

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind, To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet, To make all your friends feel that there is something in them, To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true, To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best, To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own, To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future, To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile, To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others, To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble. - **Unknown**

## STRUGGLE

A man found a cocoon of an emperor moth. He took it home so that he could watch the moth come out of the cocoon. On that day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the moth for several hours as the moth struggled to force the body through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any

progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and it could go no farther. It just seemed to be stuck. Then the man, in his kindness, decided to help the moth, so he took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The moth then emerged easily. But it had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the moth because he expected that, at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened! In fact, the little moth spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the moth to get through the tiny opening was the way of forcing fluid from the body of the moth into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Freedom and flight would only come after the struggle. By depriving the moth of a struggle, he deprived the moth of health.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If we were to go through our life without any obstacles, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Give every opportunity a chance, leave no room for regrets. - **Author Unknown**

## Some Interesting thoughts...

To handle yourself use your head; to handle

others use your heart.

Because life is short; its wise to make it broad.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

No matter how thin you slice it there are always two sides.

If someone betrays you once it's his fault; if he betrays you twice, it's your fault.

Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.

God gives every bird it's food but he does not throw it into it's nest.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

The tongue weighs practically nothing but so few people can hold it.

He who loses money loses much; he who loses a friend loses more; he who loses faith loses all.

### Interesting Quotes

"A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew." - **Herb Caen**

"The Lord's Prayer is 66 words, the Gettysburg Address is 286 words, there are

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1,322 words in the Declaration of Independence, but government regulations on the sale of cabbage total 26,911 words."

"I am not young enough to know everything." - **Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)**

"Think for yourselves and let others enjoy the privilege to do so, too." - **Voltaire**

"The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it." - **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"Watch your thoughts; they become your words. Watch your words; they become your actions. Watch your actions; they become your habits. Watch your habits; they become your character. Watch your character for it will become your destiny..." - **Hillel**

### NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Lessons learnt from the past are always good if you don't repeat the failures of those who have gone on before. When we look at our lives we can see the failures that we have made, in our service to God, in our raising of our children, in our helping of others etc. However, it is important for us to realize that the past is just that ... PAST.

We can not go back and change what we have done in the past, nor can we alter tomorrow for it has not yet come - all we can do is look at the PRESENT and do things today that we change to be better children of God and fellow citizens of the world that we live in. In our living in the Present, we will be the best that we can do, realizing that our life is not guaranteed beyond the breath we breath now - **James 4:13-15**