

### TO ASPIRE TO GREAT THINGS

- 1) When a young man sets out to learn something of his own free will, he marks himself out as an exceptional man. And he begins to rise in the world. *-Herbert N. Casson*
- 2) He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do anything. *-Samuel Johnson*
- 3) Most people would succeed in small things if they were not troubled with great ambition. *-Longfellow*
- 4) There are thousands willing to do great things to one willing to do a small thing. *-George MacDonald*
- 5) Between the great things we cannot do and the small things we will not do, lies the danger that we shall do nothing. *-Adolph Monod*
- 6) It is not for man to rest in absolute

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contentment. He is born to hopes and aspirations as the sparks fly upwards, unless he has brutified his nature and quenched the spirit of immortality which is his portion. -*Southey*

7) We are not to make the ideas of contentment and aspiration quarrel, for God made them fast friends. A man may aspire, and yet be quite content until it is time to rise; and both flying and resting are but parts of one contentment. The very fruit of the gospel is aspiration. It is to the heart what spring is to the earth, making every root, and bud, and bough desire to be more. -*H.W. Beecher*

8) If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours. In proportion as he simplifies his life, the laws of the universe will

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appear less complex, and solitude will not be solitude, nor poverty poverty, nor weakness weakness. -*Thoreau*

9) Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for mankind. -*Horace Mann*

10) It is asked, how can the laboring man find time for self-culture? I answer that an earnest purpose finds time or makes it. It seizes on spare moments and turns fragments to golden account. A man who follows his calling with industry and spirit, and uses his earnings economically, will always have some portion of the day at command. And it is astonishing how fruitful of improvement a short season becomes when eagerly seized and faithfully used. It has often been observed, that those who have the most time at their disposal profit by it the least. A single hour a day, steadily given to the study of some interesting subject, brings unex-

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pected accumulations of knowledge.

*-Channing*

**11)** Really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not in them, but through them. And they see something divine in every other man. *-John Ruskin*

**12)** Edison was once asked how he accomplished so much. He said, "It is very simple. You and I each have eighteen hours in a day in which we may do something. You spend that eighteen hours doing a number of unrelated things. I spend it doing just one thing, and some of my work is bound to amount to something." *-Sterling Sill*

**13)** Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt. *-Shakespeare*

**14)** Circumstance does not make the man; it reveals him to himself. No such conditions can exist as descending into

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vice and its attendant sufferings apart from vicious inclinations, or ascending into virtue and its pure happiness without the continued cultivation of virtuous aspirations; and man, therefore, as the lord and master of thought, is the maker of himself, the shaper and author of environment. *-James Allen*

**15)** A noble man compares and estimates himself by an idea which is higher than himself; and a mean man, by one lower than himself. The one produces aspiration; the other ambition, which is the way in which a vulgar man aspires.

*-Joseph Conrad*

**16)** Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, / Or what's a heaven for?

*-Robert Browning*

**17)** Real ease comes not from ease or riches or from praise of people, but from doing something worthwhile. *-Sir*

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*Wilfred Grenfell*

18) Your circumstances may be uncongenial, but they shall not long remain so if you but perceive an Ideal and strive to reach it. You cannot travel within and stand still without. Here is a youth hard pressed by poverty and labour; confined long hours in an unhealthy workshop; unschooled, and lacking all the arts of refinement. But he dreams of better things; he thinks of intelligence, of refinement, of grace and beauty. He conceives of, mentally builds up, an ideal condition of life; the vision of a wider liberty and a larger scope takes possession of him; unrest urges him to action, and he utilizes all his spare time and means, small though they are, to the development of his latent powers and resources. Very soon so altered has his mind become that the workshop can no

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longer hold him. It has become so out of harmony with his mentality that it falls out of his life as a garment is cast aside, and, with the growth of opportunities which fit the scope of his expanding powers, he passes out of it forever. Years later we see this youth as a full-grown man. We find him a master of certain forces of the mind which he wields with world-wide influence and almost unequaled power. In his hands he holds the cords of gigantic responsibilities; he speaks, and lo! lives are changed; men and women hang upon his words and remould their characters, and sunlike, he becomes the fixed and luminous centre around which innumerable destinies revolve. He has realized the Vision of his youth. He has become one with his Ideal. And you, too, youthful reader, will realize the Vision (not the idle wish) of

*Progression*

your heart, be it base or beautiful, or a mixture of both, for you will always gravitate toward that which you, secretly, most love. -*James Allen*

**19)** We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. -*Oscar Wilde*

**PROGRESSION**

**20)** I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday. -*Abraham Lincoln*

**21)** Sometimes, when people are working hard to progress in their lives, they do so well in two or three fields of human endeavor, that they forget one area that is just as important: *social*. They work hard at progressing mentally, physically, and even spiritually, that in the end, they