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Be not afraid. We are counseled many times in the Bible that we be not afraid - that we go not cringing and cowardly thru life. Fear no man. Fear God and God alone. Fear not a man who has power to destroy only the body but have fear of him who is able to destroy your soul. Do right and fear nothing. Sin against the spirit is the unforgivable sin - the most in the whole category of sins. We may sensibly - be afraid of evil of sin. But not of persons nor of events.

The long list of masters is a list of heroic souls who have at all costs stood for what they believed to be right. Not all of the truly great of soul had to suffer death or torment but they are never afraid. They would not lie, dissemble nor run away to save their own skins. They rose above the threats & dangers around them.

Quo vadis? Mrs Penn before Xing Chus II. It took courage for the prophets of Israel to go before their kings and denounce the gent. for its wickedness but Hosea, Amos & Micah did it - a price set upon their heads - but they seemed not afraid. They knew that all the power of public disapproval would be visited upon them - that they would be hungry - their only families turn against them - and probably die but they told the truth - and so great was their contribution to humanity that they are honored & admired to this day.

What was it or is it that enables a man or woman to live such heroic lives? The coward doesn't do it. There is some quality or power of the soul that lifts them above fear.

Talked with a man who has never been religious in the ordinary sense - he was no churchman any way - but I suspect he was truly religious. He could not subscribe to commonly accepted doctrines - would not call himself an atheist - didn't know about God - rather skeptical about immortality - but he had led a brave life as a physician. I spoke of his age - nearly three. He said that he knew not anything of the future had no hopes about it - no expectations of it - but whatever nature provides will be all right with me. I trust the universe - death is nothing to fear for it is unavoidable. What it is no body knows & hence but I'm sure it must be all right.

Here was a man of courage, power,
George Peabody - Chas. Bradlaugh -
Revolutionary professors. Leaders had that within them that
made them dare to do the dangerous thing. Now there are
several things that make for spiritual power.

A trust & confidence in God is always able to give men
strength for any emergency. It has accomplished all kinds
of wonders. To believe in an invincible power for righteousness
is to be satisfied that the universe itself is moral. That right is its
own reward - and bring its punishment. So people armed with
this faith are daunt to be strong. Illustrated by Mark Twain's Song.

Quote

We have all seen people of spiritual power living heroic lives
because of a faith - a hope a trust in God that some how things must
come out all right in the end. They endure every hardship and
privation, every discouragement and ~~privation~~ disaster ~~not~~ every sorrow
with fortitude. They have soul power - spiritual strength.
It takes I think a great deal of it to embrace poverty for
example - as St. Bernard - Gandhi - Tolstoy - Jesus did. To
renounce luxury & a throne as Buddha did.

What must be in a man's mind when for spiritual
ends he sacrifices all else - In India it is a regular habit
of many, when they are old - family grown up - to turn over their
fortune to the family & retire into the woods & mts. in some cave or monastery
to meditate & pray to seek the true ends of life. It takes something
that few westerners have to do such a thing. Father Damien
goes to the leper colony of Molokai to give his life in service to the
victims of the loathsome disease. What makes him? His soul his
spirit - He believes it is God's will - whether it is or not - he is a hero
He has spiritual power.

Another great agent of development is "love" Love of nature, love
of men. St. Paul was - Love will & often has prompted
& sustained men to make the very greatest sacrifices. Mothers
work uncomplainingly night & day thru a long sickness or endure
& die for the children. Motherhood - true mother love
develops a greatness of soul.

The pursuit of knowledge or truth develops & makes for spiritual power. I've never seen need of a scientist who was a coward a craven. Copernicus - Newton - Darwin - La Fontaine - Leonardo - Galvani - Bacon -

Men of vision have had to endure social ostracism - They are called crack pots, atheists, anarchists, communists, Bolsheviks - Emerson - was put out of his church J. H. Holmes - Fordick - was ousted from Presby. Ch. in N.Y. Ferdinand Brunner - burned - Cervantes burned - Minut was anathematized by the Catholic Ch. Any one that has ever shined up the absurdity of traditions long cherished has had to endure a lot of abuse and social ostracism. But I never knew of a man with enthusiasm for the pursuit of truth who was a coward. The pursuit of it seems to strengthen a man's soul.

Striving for any ideal - living for ends beyond ones selfish interests makes men great - develops in them what I call spiritual power. Mussolini - Hitler - Lenin - Stalin - Sun Yat Sen - G. Washington - Lincoln - Jane Adams - Clara Barton - Do not sympathize with all of them - I hate the ideals of Mussolini & Hitler but that they are great souls, men of power, no one can deny - They have dreams & visions of things far beyond this world for which they live - Few men are more hated & reviled than the dictators - but they lose their lives for Persia, Italy, Russia & Turkey and become great.

There are many very humble folk who have spiritual power. I've seen many sorely afflicted who yet keeps brave - who are not afraid who fight a good fight. Tales of human interest are found all around us - and many, not educated - not rich - not privileged in any way, have worked hard - suffered circumstances & financial losses. yet been brave. Others we have known - have lived selfish - narrow lives - and thrown away their opportunities - the great sin of all sins - because it is primarily a sin against their own soul. They have dwarfed that - Made it small - they have no strength - if adversity comes - go insane, commit suicide - get drunk to drown consciousness of themselves - become drug addicts - sink into anti social attitudes.