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## **A Bridge**

**An old man going a lone highway  
came at the evening, cold and gray,  
to a chasm, vast and deep and wide,  
through which was flowing a swollen tide.**

**The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
the swollen stream held no fears for him.  
He paused when safe on the other side  
and built a bridge to span the tide.**

**"Old Man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
you're wasting strength with building here,  
your journey ends with the ending day.  
You never again must pass this way.**

**You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
why build a bridge at the even' tide?"**

**The builder lifted his old gray head,  
"good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"there followeth after me today,  
a youth, whose feet must pass this way.**

**This swollen stream that was naught for me,  
to that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.  
He too must cross in the twilight dim,  
good friend, I am building the bridge for him!"**

## **Goals**

**If One Advances Confidently In The Direction Of Their Dreams,  
And Endeavors To Lead A Life Which They Have Imagined,  
They Will Meet With A Success Unexpected In Common Hours.**

■ Henry David Thoreau –

## **Builder or Wrecker**

**I watched them tearing a building down  
a group of men in a busy town.  
With a ho, heave, ho and a lusty yell  
they swung a beam and a wall fell.  
I asked the foreman, are these men skilled?  
The type of men you'd hire if you had to build?  
He laughed as he replied, no, indeed  
just common labor is all I need.  
I can easily wreck in a day or two what  
builders have taken years to do.  
I asked myself as I walked away  
which of these roles have I tried to play?  
Am I a builder who works with care  
measuring life by rule and square?  
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town  
content with the labor of tearing down?**

## **Friend**

**Friendship is a special gift given to us all. The smile of a friend is sunlight on a cloudy day, and every smile given to a friend is returned...**

**A friend is someone you can talk to, and listen to, without judging. A friend doesn't ignore your faults but accepts them as part of you. A friend is a shoulder to lean on when you need support, a pat on the back when you do well, a sympathetic ear when you fail.**

**A friend is a person you can laugh with about everything, you can cry with without shame, and whom you trust completely. A friend is a partner in life and a part of you always.**

■ Brian Bindschadler –

## **Faith Commitment Creed**

**Beyond Impossibilities Are  
Powerful Possibilities;  
Beyond Obstacles Are  
Obvious Opportunities;**

**Beyond Stumbling Blocks  
Are Superb Stepping Stones;  
Beyond Thunderstorms Are  
Triumphant Rainbows.**

**I Am Unable To Do It All...  
But Will Do That  
Which I Can.**

**What I Could Do,  
I Should Do.  
What I Should Do,  
I Shall Do!  
I Am Successful!**

**--Byron V. Garrett**

## **The Man in the Arena**

**"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 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 and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and short-comings; but who actually strives to do the deed, who knows the great devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the high achievement of triumph and who at worst, if he fails while daring greatly, knows his place shall never be with those timid and cold souls who know neither victory nor defeat.**

**Theodore Roosevelt**

# A LEADER

I went on a search to become a leader.

I searched high and low. I spoke with authority. People listened. But alas, there was one who was wiser than I, and they followed that individual. I sought to inspire confidence, but the crowd responded, "Why should we trust you?"

I postured, and I assumed the look of leadership with a countenance that flowed with confidence and pride. But many passed me by and never noticed my air of elegance. I ran ahead of the others, pointed the way to new heights. I demonstrated that I knew the route to greatness. And then I look back, and I was alone.

"What shall I do?" I queried. "I've tried hard and used all that I know." I sat down and pondered long. Then I listened to the voices around me. I heard what the group was trying to accomplish. I rolled up my sleeves and joined in the work.

As we worked, I asked, "Are we all together in what we want to do and how to get the job done?" And we thought together, and we fought together, and we struggled towards our goal. I found myself encouraging the fainthearted. I sought the ideas of those too shy to speak out. I taught those who had little skill. I praised those who worked hard.

When our task was completed, one of the group turned to me and said, "This would not have been done but for your leadership." At first I said, "I didn't lead. I just worked with the rest." Then I understood, leadership is not a goal. It's a way to reaching a goal.

I lead best when I help others to go where we've decided to go. I lead best when I help others to use themselves creatively. I lead best when I forget about myself as leader and focus on my group...their needs and their goals.

To lead is to serve... to give... to achieve together.

-- Anonymous --

## The Pearly Gates

The teacher stood at the pearly gates  
her face was grim and old.  
She stood before the man of fate  
seeking admission to the fold.

What have you done, St. Peter asked,  
to gain admission here?  
I've been a teacher, she replied,  
for many and many a year.

The pearly gates swung open wide  
as St. Peter rang the bell.  
Come on in and choose your harp, he cried  
you've had your share of hell.

## **On Friendship**

**At times when I am feeling low,  
I hear from a friend and then;**

**My worries start to go away  
and I am on the mend.**

**No matter what the doctors say  
and their studies never end**

**The best cure of all, when spirits fall  
is a kind word from a friend.**

**-- John Wooden --**

## **Persistence**

**Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.**

**Calvin Coolidge**

## **Pride**

**Pride is a personal commitment. It is an attitude that separates excellence from mediocrity. It is that ingredient which inspires us not to get ahead of others, but rather to get ahead of ourselves.**

## **Success**

**"Success is in the way you walk the paths of life each and every day. It is in the little things you do, and in the things you say. It is not in reaching heights of fame. It is not alone in reaching goals that all men seek to claim. Success is being big of heart, clean and broad of mind. Success is being faithful to your friends and to the stranger kind. Success is in your family and your teammates and what they learn from you. Success is having character in everything you do."**

## Right Field

Saturday, summers when I was a kid,  
we went to the park and here's what we did:  
We picked out some captains and chose up some teams,  
it was always a measure of your self-esteem.

The biggest and fastest played shortstop and first.  
The last ones chosen were always the worst.  
Me, I didn't have to ask, it was sealed,  
I just took my place in right field.

Playing right field it's easy, you know,  
you can be awkward, you can be slow.  
That's why I'm out in right field,  
just watching the dandelions grow.

I dreamed of the day they would hit one my way.  
They never did but I still would pray...  
that I'd make a fantastic catch on the run.  
I wouldn't lose the ball in the sun.

But then I'd awake from that wild dream  
and hope that the ball would never be seen.  
Out in right field where I was awkward and slow  
and I spent most of my time just watching the dandelions grow.

Off in the distance the game's dragging on.  
A couple of strikes on the batter--several men are on,  
I don't know the inning, I've forgotten the score,  
everyone's yelling but I don't know what for.

Suddenly everyone's looking at me,  
my mind has been wandering, what could it be?  
They point to the sky, I look above.  
A baseball falls into my glove!

Playing right field, it's important, you know.  
You've got to know how to catch.  
You've got to know how to throw.  
That's why they've got me out in right field...  
doing more than watching the dandelions grow!

## **Success**

**To laugh often and much,**

**To win the respect of intelligent people  
and the affection of children,**

**To earn the appreciation of honest critics  
and endure the betrayal of false friends**

**To appreciate beauty,  
to find the best in others!**

**To leave the world a bit better,  
whether by a healthy child,  
a garden patch  
or a redeemed social condition,**

**To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.**

**This is to have succeeded.**

**-- Ralph Waldo Emerson --**

## **You'd Better Be Running**

**"Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It, knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you're a lion or a gazelle; when the sun comes up you'd better be running."**



## The Touch of the Master's Hand

It was battered and scarred  
and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while  
to waste his time on the old violin,  
but he held it up with a smile.

"What am I bid, good friends," he cried.  
"Who'll start the bidding for me?  
One dollar! Only one? And who'll make it two?  
Two dollars once, and three!

Three dollars once, and three dollars twice,  
and going, and going, but no--  
from the back of the room a gray-haired man  
came forward and picked up the bow.

He wiped off the dust from the old violin,  
and tightening the loose strings,  
he played a melody pure and sweet  
as caroling angels sing.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer  
with a voice that was quiet and low,  
said, "what am I bid now for the old violin?"  
As he held it up with the bow.

"One thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?  
Two thousand dollars, and three!  
Three thousand dollars once.  
Three thousand twice.  
And going, and going, and gone!" said he.

The crowd cheered, but some of them cried,  
"what changed it's worth, we don't understand?"  
Swift came the reply.  
"'Twas the touch of the master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune  
and battered and scarred with sin  
is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,  
much like the old violin.

But the Master comes, and the thoughtless crowd  
never can quite understand,  
the worth of a soul, and the change that is wrought,  
by the touch of the Master's hand.

## **You Can Be Whatever You Want to Be**

**There is inside you  
all of the potential to be whatever  
you want to be-  
all of the energy to do whatever  
you want to do.**

**Imagine yourself, as you would like to be,  
doing what you want to do,  
and each day; take one step  
towards your dream.**

**And though at times it may seem too  
difficult to continue,  
hold on to your dream.**

**One morning you will awake to find  
that you are the person you dreamed of-  
doing what you wanted to do-  
simply because you had the courage  
to believe in your potential  
and to hold on to your dream.**

■ author Donna Lavine –

### **You Can If You Think You Can**

**If you think you are beaten, you are;  
If you think you dare not, you don't!  
If you'd like to win, but think you can't,  
It's almost a cinch that you won't.**

**If you think you'll lose, you're lost;  
For out in the world we find  
Success begins with a fellow's will;  
It's all in the state of mind!**

**If you think you're outclassed, you are;  
You've got to think high to rise.  
You've got to be sure to yourself  
Before you can win the prize.**

**Life's battles don't always go  
To the strongest or fastest man  
But sooner or later the man who wins  
Is the man who thinks he can!**

**Walter D. Wintle**

## **Praise Him**

**If with pleasure you are viewing  
The work a man is doing,  
If you like him or love him tell him now.  
Don't withhold your ovation  
until the parson makes oration  
and he lies with snowy lilies ore' his brow.  
For no matter how loud you shout it  
he won't really care about it;  
he won't know how many teardrops you have shed.  
If you think some praise is due him,  
now's the time to slip it to him;  
for he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead.**

## **Persistence is the Key**

**Throughout your career, perhaps you'll remember this story of one of our most famous people:**

**He failed in business in '32.  
He ran as a state legislator and lost in '32.  
He tried business again and failed in '33.  
His sweetheart died in '35.  
He had a nervous breakdown in '36.  
He ran for state elector in '40 after he regained his health.  
He was defeated for congress in '43,  
He was defeated again for Congress in '48.  
He was defeated when he ran for senate in '55  
He was defeated for vice president of the United States in '56.  
He ran for the Senate again in '58 and lost.  
This man never quit.  
He kept his confidence until the last.**

**In 1860, this man, Abraham Lincoln, was elected President of the U.S.**

## **Commitment to Excellence**

**"I owe most everything to football, in which I have spent the greater part of my life. I have never lost my respect, my admiration or my love for what I consider a great game. Each Sunday, after the battle, one group savors victory, another group lives in the bitterness of defeat. The many hurts seem a small price to have paid for having won, and there is no reason at all that is adequate for having lost. To the winner there is one hundred percent fun and to the loser the only thing left for him is a one hundred percent resolution, one hundred percent determination.**

**It's a game, I think, a great deal like life in that it demands that a man's personal commitment be toward victory, even though you know that ultimate victory can never be completely won. Yet it must be pursued with all of one's might. Each week there's a new encounter, each year a new challenge. All of the rings and all of the money and all of the color and all of the display linger only in memory.**

**The spirit, the will to win and the will to excel, these are the things that endure and these are the qualities that are so much more important than any of the events that occasion them. I would like to say that the quality of any man's life has got to be full measure of that man's personal commitment to excellence and to victory, regardless of what field he may be in."**

**Vince Lombardi**

### **An Irish Blessing**

**May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face.  
May rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again, may God  
Hold you in the palm of His hand.**

## **The Lombardi Creed**

**"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all-the-time thing. You don't win once in a while. You don't do things right once in a while. You do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing.**

**There is no room for second place. There is only one place in my game and that is first place. I have finished second twice in my time at Green Bay and I don't ever want to finish second place again.**

**Every time a football player goes out to ply his trade he's got to play from the ground up from the soles of his feet right up to his head. Every inch of him has to play. Some guys play with their heads, that's O.K. you've got to be smart to be no. 1 in any business, but more important, you've got to play with your heart — with every fiber of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a guy with a lot of head and a lot of heart, he's never going to come off the field second.**

**Running a football team is no different from running any other kind of organization, an army, a political party, a business. The principles are the same. The object is to win —to beat the other guy. Maybe that sounds hard or cruel. I don't think it is.**

**It's a reality of life that men are competitive and the most competitive games draw the most competitive men. That's why they're there — to compete; they know the rules and the objectives when they get in the game. The objective is to win — fairly, squarely, decently, by the rules — but to win.**

**And in truth, I've never known a man worth his salt who in the long run, deep down in his heart, didn't appreciate the grind, the discipline. There is something in good men that really yearns for, and needs discipline and the harsh reality of head-to-head combat."**

**Vince Lombardi**

## **Don't Quit**

When things go wrong as they sometimes will, when the road you're trudging seems all uphill, when the funds are low and the debts are high, and you want to smile, but you have to sigh, when care is pressing you down a bit – rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is strange with its twists and turns, as every one of us sometimes learns.

And many a person turns about when they might have won had they stuck it out. Don't give up though the pace seems slow – you may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out – the silver tint of the clouds of doubt, and when you never can tell how close you are, it may be near when it seems so far. So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit – it's when things seem worse, you mustn't quit.

## **The Man in the Glass**

**When you get what you want in your struggle for self  
And the world makes you king for a day,  
Just go to the mirror and look at yourself  
And see what that man has to say.**

**For it isn't your father, mother or wife  
Whose judgment upon you must pass;  
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life,  
Is the one staring back from the glass.**

**Some people may think you a straight-shootin' chum  
And call you a wonderful guy,  
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum —  
If you can't look him straight in the eye.**

**He's the fellow to please—never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you clear up to the end.  
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test  
If the man in the glass is your friend.**

**You may fool the whole world down the pathway of life  
And gets pats on your back as you pass.  
BUT your final reward will be heartaches and fears-  
If you've cheated the man in the glass!**