

Rudyard Kipling: *The White Man's Burden*

Take up the White Man's burden—  
Send forth the best ye breed—  
Go send your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need  
5 To wait in heavy harness  
On fluttered folk and wild—  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,  
Half devil and half child  
Take up the White Man's burden  
10 In patience to abide  
To veil the threat of terror  
And check the show of pride;  
By open speech and simple  
An hundred times made plain  
15 To seek another's profit  
And work another's gain  
Take up the White Man's burden—  
And reap his old reward:  
The blame of those ye better  
20 The hate of those ye guard—  
The cry of hosts ye humour  
(Ah slowly) to the light:  
"Why brought ye us from bondage,  
"Our loved Egyptian night?"  
25 Take up the White Man's burden-  
Have done with childish days-  
The lightly proffered laurel,  
The easy, ungrudged praise.  
Comes now, to search your manhood  
30 Through all the thankless years,  
Cold-edged with dear-bought wisdom,  
The judgment of your peers!

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In February 1899, British novelist and poet  
Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem entitled "The  
35 White Man's Burden: The United States and The  
Philippine Islands." In this poem, Kipling urged  
the U.S. to take up the "burden" of empire, as had  
Britain and other European nations. Published in  
the February, 1899 issue of McClure's Magazine,  
40 the poem coincided with the beginning of the  
Philippine-American War.

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