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The inspiration of Captain Carlsen, 1952.



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THE INSPIRATION OF CAPTAIN CARLSEN

The Noble Saga of the "Flying Enterprise"

January 27, 1952

My dear friends, within the last two weeks our world took time out from its absorption in war and alarms of war, in riots, violence, power politics, to pay tribute to a man who demonstrated extraordinary courage and faithfulness to duty not on the battlefield. I refer, of course, to Captain Henrik Kurt Carlsen, skipper of the freighter, "The Flying Enterprise". Included in the world's bountiful acclaim was the First Mate, Kenneth R. Cancy, of the tug-boat, "Turmoil", who went aboard Captain Carlsen's doomed ship to stand with him during his lonely vigil and to give him whatever help he could after all hands had, at the command of the Captain, abandoned the ship.

"The Flying Enterprise" on December 28th cracked open in a furious gale in the British Channel. When the ship began to flounder, Captain Carlsen ordered all passengers, crew to leave the ship. He himself remained on board. He believed that there was a good chance to bring his ship to port. He felt it to be his duty to the owner of the ship and to those who insured the ship and its cargo to remain with it until the very last moment, until the very last chance to save it had been exhausted.

Captain Carlsen had commanded his ship for three years. He had made more than 40 Atlantic crossings on it. He knew it to be as he put it "an exceedingly good ship, a sound ship". And so, this 37-year-old, Danish-born American Captain decided to stick by his ship to the very end. And for nearly two weeks he clung to his derelict boat which was listing heavily, which was pounded by waves and storms, which was lashed by winds and rains, and which reeled in fog and heavy seas. For two weeks, soaked and wet through most of the time, he struggled to save his ship. Continually he was in danger of being swept overboard, and death was at his elbow all the time. He slept little during that time and in a cramped position, partly on the port wall and partly on the floor. He had very little to eat. He came upon a batch of raisin cakes that the ship's cook had baked for the New Year's dinner which was to be held.



He had about a quart of fresh water and some beer. That is what he ate and drank for the better part of a week. At the end of that week, the United States destroyer, "John W. Weeks", got a line over to him and was able to send him some fresh fruit and some hot coffee.

Captain Carlsen was obeying quite simply and without much ado and unquestioningly the unwritten law of the seas: "As long as the ship can float, a captain does not leave his ship." That was the code. And following out that code, Captain Carlsen was not aware of any heroics. Here was no expectation of reward, no possible financial advantage could accrue to him for the master of his ship cannot in any circumstances claim salvage. A modest skipper of an ordinary freighter, raised in the tradition of the sea, was performing his simple duty in pursuance of that ancient and noble tradition. And the whole world stood by and watched with bated breath - the whole world watched this unequal struggle of man against the sea, of the will and the valor and the physical and moral stamina of one human being pitted against the unleashed fury of the elements and a wild, raging sea. Here was drama of the highest order, drama that cleansed and purged the human soul, and made men aware of greatness beyond themselves.

Captain Carlsen's loneliness was ended after a week when the tugboat, "Turmoil", succeeded in getting near enough to his ship so that Kenneth Dancy, its mate, was able to jump aboard to remain with him as his companion to the very end. An effort was made to get a tow-line aboard the "Flying Enterprise", but in the last moment the line snapped, and thereafter it was too dangerous to attempt to make another tow. But Captain Carlsen continued to cling to his ship, day after day, night after night. Then there swept over his ship a gale of such violence that the doors of the wheelhouse exploded from the pressure of intrushing water, and the ship began to sink very rapidly. And it was only then that Captain Carlsen and Dancy jumped into the raging



sea. And in the water they held hands so that they would not drift apart as the sea was extremely high and rough. And from this sea they were picked up by the salvage tug, "The Turmoil".

And what was his worst moment, absolutely the worst moment of this whole trip? Captain Carlsen was asked when he finally landed on shore. He answered, "It was the moment when, standing on the tug, "Turmoil", I saw the "Flying Enterprise", disappear below the sea." "That really hurt you, Captain?" "It hurt quite a lot," he said. And another question evoked a revealing answer from Captain Carlsen. He was asked whether he was a religious man and whether he had prayed aboard his dying ship. Captain Carlsen answered with a quick smile, "I am not exactly a heathen."

Now, the "Flying Enterprise" was lost. The Captain failed to bring his ship into port. The elements had defeated him. The sea had vanquished the man who dared to defy it. And yet, somehow the world saw victory here and not defeat because the world realized that there was something more important involved here, something more important to save than a ship. There are rarer gifts than gold that a man can bring to his fellowmen. A noble code had to be saved, and it was saved. Human courage and faithfulness had to be vindicated, and they were vindicated. The stout heart, the daring and the valor, the resoluteness and the intrepidity of the human spirit which remains undaunted in the face of the most overwhelming odds, the human spirit which will confront, when necessary, danger and death - that human spirit which alone gives confidence to humanity and insures the future of the human race - all that was dramatically revealed, affirmed and attested. And therefore, the world rejoiced; and therefore, the world bestowed honors upon these two men because they brought it in desperate times reassurance - reassurance that this noble and indispensable quality of human existence was not vanishing from the face of the earth.



That the valorous act was the work of one or two men who stood forth alone upon this vast stage - that fact, too, served to impress us and to move us greatly. In this grossly collectivized age in which we live, where the individual man is submerged in an indistinguishable mass, and the individual man is accounted only as a sort of statistical item or a cog in a vast, impersonal machine, there suddenly occurs an event which re-emphasizes most dramatically the supreme importance of the single individual, the sovereign grandeur of the independent human personality, the importance of man as such, alone, unique, the doer of deeds of imperishable splendor, the focus of great drama.

How can such a spirit ever be coordinated in the kind of a regimented society which the blasphemous philosophies of our day, Fascist or Communist, seek to establish in the world? Here the world beheld a man, not a tool, not a pawn, not a slave of a state or a system, not a hack or a wheel-horse nor "a stolid and stunned, being a brother to the ox". Here was a man - free, creative, endowed with daring and initiative, capable of challenge and defiance and decision, a man prepared to accept responsibility and to follow through voluntarily, through no compulsion, the clear line of duty. Here was precious human material out of which a free society is built and not a servile state. And the world sensed all this in the Carlsen story and was profoundly grateful. For the world realizes, is coming to realize, that the coming great struggle of mankind is man against a usurping state, man against a dictatorship of the class, man against the shackles, the constriction, the inhibitions of bureaucracy and organization and mass coordination, the struggle of man to remain sovereign in spirit and free.

Now, my dear friends, the character and moral fortitude which Captain Carlsen demonstrated on the high seas against the forces of nature, other brave men have from time to time demonstrated in other situations and other circumstances, but the quality of the courage is the same. It is not the courage of desperation, when there is no other course open; it is not the courage of rashness or lack of discretion, nor the



witless and fatuous courage which tempts danger for its own sake. It is the courage of free choice when other alternatives are open - the deliberate courage in full awareness of possible consequences, for the sake of some worthy moral objective.

The quiet courage of the scientist in the laboratory, experimenting in a field and with substances where danger is not remote; the doctor, pursuing his clear duty in situations fraught with the gravest danger to himself; the explorer in perilous worlds; the social servant, the idealist, the champion of social righteousness; the revealer of the new truth and the new insight; the man who dares to stand alone by his convictions in the face of the world's misunderstanding and hostility - all these are the children of light, the great men who make a nation great.

Now, they are not always acclaimed in their lifetime as fortunately Captain Carlsen was, for their valor is frequently without witnesses, which is, of course, the highest type of valor, and frequently they are condemned and derided by their own generation.

Louis Pasteur, who was himself of this company of the gallant in spirit, the valiant, who was most violently attacked during his lifetime for his pioneering and revolutionary experiments in the fields of chemistry and bacteriology - Pasteur who Professor Osler characterized as "the most perfect man who has ever entered the kingdom of science" - Pasteur once said, "A man of science should think of what will be said of him in the following century, not of the insults or the compliments of his own century." And that is true, of course, not only of man of science. In fact, these people of whom we are speaking - these valorous men of the spirit - they do not really think very much of what men will say of them in their own day or later. They do what they feel they ought to do, what they feel they should do, and do it as well as they can. The mandate and the compulsion come from within themselves, and from within, too, comes the reward.



That is not only the courage and the valor of the outstandingly great, those who by the impact of their deeds, affect the course of history. But it is the same quality of courage that one finds very often among the humble and the lowly, the man and the women who quietly carry the burdens of life and accept the harsh responsibilities of existence uncomplainingly, and who make the necessary sacrifices for dear ones in order to ennoble other lives to move on to their destination. It is the same quality of greatness that one finds frequently, unproclaimed and unheralded, of course, among the humble and the lowly. And it is these people and their lives who are the salt of the earth.

Our great religion has always urged upon men to be strong and unafraid, in doing the things which had to be done. The farewell words of the great leader, Moses, to his people before he disappeared on Mt. Nebo, were, "Be strong and of good courage; fear not; nor be affrighted." And this, too, was his message to his successor, Joshua, who had to lead the people into the Promised Land, facing enemies, dangers: "Be strong and of good courage. Fear not; neither be dismayed." And to all the faithful, the Psalmist speaks time and again, "Be strong and let your heart take courage, all ye that wait for the Lord." To believe - really to believe - in something, in someone, in some conviction, in some truth, in some ideal - to believe is to be unafraid. "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?"

Now, it is not that the faithful are never afraid. All men know fear. It is man's awareness of danger. The most courageous of men are afraid, but they overcome their fear. The faithful find refuge from their fear in God, in a confidence which dissipates their fears and releases them for the action which will be acceptable to God. They endure suffering and they are not afraid to die, for life in God can never know death, and life is exalted through suffering. This is the testament of all the



martyrs of all ages, men who died for whatever truth was their supreme devotion. They could fall - and frequently they did fall - but they never yielded. This is why great men whom the world chooses to honor, great men of the spirit, were always able to stand alone.

Our Rabbis say that Abraham was called, "Ivri", the Hebrew, because the word means a man who was able to stand on one side with the rest of the world on the other side, and confront the ~~the~~ rest of the world at the behest of his conviction. And that was the legacy which Abraham bequeathed unto his children to a people, though always a small people, nevertheless had the courage to stand alone through hatred and persecution, through the long, weary centuries, for the truth which was theirs and the faith which was sacred to them. To stand alone - that is the test of valor.

The great prophet, Jeremiah, preaching the harsh but healing truth to the men of his generation, and summoning his people to moral regeneration, knew himself, as he said "to be a man of strife and contention to the whole world". He would have liked to leave his people and go from them and escape to some wilderness, as he said, to some lodging place of wayfaring men away from his people, but he stood by his post, he continued to prophesy, to speak the truth for the word of God was in his heart, "as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones", he said, "and I weary myself to hold it in, but could not."

The great Mattathias, together with his sons, launched a revolution in ancient Israel, which saved the faith for Israel and for humanity. It is quoted in the Apocrypha in the following way. "And Mattathias answered and ~~spoke~~ spake with a loud voice: Though all the nations that are under the King's dominion obey him and fall away everyone from the religion of their fathers, yet will I and my sons and my brethren continue to walk in the covenant of our fathers."



The great Socrates was condemned ~~by~~ to death by his fellow citizens of Athens because he had spoken the truth to his people, which was not pleasing to them. And on the eve of his death he was given a chance to escape from prison. His friends had arranged for a safe escape to life and freedom. Socrates refused. For, as he said, "It is not life but a good life which is chiefly to be valued." And he would be detracting from his own conception of a good life, from the example which his life might serve to future generations, if in order to save his physical life, he would now circumvent the laws and the government of his own state which all his life he tried to purify and to strengthen and to ennoble. "It is better to depart in innocence, a sufferer, but not a doer of evil; a victim not of the laws, but of men," he said. And so, he chose rather to die than to escape, to accept death rather than to renounce his convictions. A man who is able to stand by his ~~shop~~, by his convictions, regardless - that gives immortality to the example of one's life.

There was a great rabbi who lived in the 13th century in Germany, the foremost rabbi of his day. He was called the "light of the exile", Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg. He lived in an age of persecution, and this great Rabbi himself was finally imprisoned by Emperor Rudolph and confined in the fortress of Ensisheim in Alsace. This shocked the whole world of Jewry, and so his friends raised a vast sum of money as a ransom for his release, and the Emperor was prepared to release Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg, but like Socrates, Rabbi Meir refused freedom because he feared to create a precedent for the extortion of money from Jews by the imprisonment of their rabbis. And so he remained and he languished for seven years in the fortress prison, and there he died.

To stand alone, to endure, to suffer crushing blows and not to give in - that is the courage, my friends, that our age desperately needs. How much we need that quality of faithfulness, of independence, of courage in our government today, in our society generally. When our liberties and human progress are being endangered by timid



conformity on the part of many citizens, and through witch-hunting on the part of reactionaries, when our way of life is being endangered by subtle intimidations, to a point where a man who speaks today for basic American ideas - for peace or for international cooperation and good will, or for one world - is automatically suspect. But there is no freedom, my friends, except for the brave. Unless we are brave in defense of our rights as individual human beings, and our freedoms, we shall lose them.

America needs men of vision and courage who will not succumb to popular propaganda emanating from within our own country or from abroad, men of strong and independent convictions, American convictions, who will struggle to keep their country free even as it becomes militarily strong, and military prowess is frequently a danger to freedom - men who remain true to the basic traditions of justice and freedom as our country seeks allies among the nations of the earth and involves itself in numerous international commitments for the sake of security. How much we need the spirit of Captain Carlsen among our legislators and the administrators of our offices and departments of our government, men who remain loyal, cleanly loyal to duty, men who will not only resist beguilements of bribery, but he will resist and fight corruption, a corruption which may spread like a cancer through the body politic. We need that clean, valorous spirit of a man who sees his duty and performs it unquestioningly and undeviatingly without the expectation of reward. We need that ~~spirit~~ spirit among the teachers and the educators of our country so that they may remain loyal to their traditions of absolute academic freedom and will not permit themselves to be intimidated and silenced by reactionary charlatans in our country.

This is a great but troubled age in which we live. And great souls are needed, not necessarily dramatic single individuals of outstanding accomplishments, but great souls among the rank and file who make up our great country. Great souls are needed, fearless souls, who will guide us through the storms and the dangerous seas to a safe harbor.



It is good to have had the refreshing and inspiring story of Captain Carlsen and his mate, two simple, honest human beings, to remind the world that its spiritual resources have not been spent, that strength and moral sturdiness and capacity for greatness are there, if only we tap them, May our age be granted the gift of many Captain Carlsens in the days to come.





1. Within the last 2 weeks the world took time out of its absorption in wars and alarms, in war, in riots and violence and ~~international~~ power politics to pay tribute to a man who demonstrated extraordinary courage and faithfulness to duty as on the battle field.

I refer, of course to Captain Herold C. Hunt Carlsen, skipper of the freighter "The Flying Enterprise".

Included in the world's beautiful acclaim was First mate Kenneth R. Dancy, the tug-boat "Turnoil", who went aboard the doomed ship & Capt. Carlsen to stand with him on his lonely vigil, ~~and to help him keep the family~~ after all hands had, at the command, the captain, abandoned the ship.

"The Flying Enterprise" on Dec. 28, cracked open in a furious gale in the British Channel & when the ship began to founder, Capt. Carlsen, ordered all passengers and crew to leave the ship. He himself remained on board. He believed that there was a good chance to bring her to port. He felt it to be his duty to the owner, the ship and to those who winned the ship and its cargo - to remain with it until the very last moment - until the very last chance had been exhausted.

He had commanded that ship for three years. He had made more than 40 Atlantic voyages in it. He knew it to be "an extremely fast ship, a sound ship - and so



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at the  
AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES  
to home

Cap. Carlsen

No expectation of reward, no <sup>that could possibly result</sup> financial advantage to him -  
"the making a ship cannot in any circumstances claim  
salary". A modest stuffer, an ordinary freer, he,  
raised in the traditions of the sea, was performing his  
duty - in permanence, that noble tradition - and the whole  
world watched with bated breath, <sup>as it watched</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>and one of</sup> ~~the~~  
a man against the sea - of the will, valor and  
physical and moral stamina of a human being pushed



against the ~~power~~ <sup>elements</sup> of the elements and ~~the~~ <sup>wild</sup> raging sea. (3)  
Here was drama ~~that~~ the highest order, drama that  
challenged and purged the human soul - and made men  
aware of greatness beyond themselves.

Capt. Carlsen's loneliness was ended <sup>of this week</sup> when the tug-boat  
"Turner" succeeded in getting near enough to his ship -  
and ~~the~~ Kenneth Davney <sup>to make</sup> ~~the "Turner"~~, jumped aboard  
and remained with him as his companion to the end.  
An effort was made to get a tow-line on board the "Flying  
Enterprise" - but in the best moment the line parted. Thereafter  
it was too dangerous to attempt to make another tow.

But he ~~continued to~~ <sup>clung</sup> to his ship. ~~But after that~~ then  
there swept over them for a few days a gale of such violence,  
"that the doors, the wheelhouse exploded from the pressure  
of crashing water"; and the ship started sinking fast.  
~~But~~ Capt. Carlsen and Davney ~~held on and~~ <sup>finally</sup> jumped into  
the sea. ~~They~~ <sup>They</sup> held hands so that would not drift apart ~~for~~  
~~the sea~~, which was <sup>other sea</sup> extremely ~~so~~ high and rough. From  
that sea they were <sup>hooked up</sup> ~~rescued~~ by the "Turner".

And what was his <sup>worst</sup> ~~worst~~ moment - absolutely the worst  
moment of the whole trip? Capt. Carlsen was asked ~~that~~  
~~question~~ <sup>question</sup> when he <sup>was</sup> ~~landed~~ on shore. He answered: "It was the  
moment that the Flying Enterprise disappeared below the  
sea." That really hurt you, Captain, did it? It hurt



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of the ~~ship~~ <sup>Flying Enterprise</sup> was lost. The Captain failed to bring his ship into port. The elements had defeated him. The sea had vanquished the man who <sup>dared to</sup> ~~defied~~ it. And yet the world saw victory here and not defeat. ~~There was~~ <sup>Some things</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>than</sup> a ship ~~which~~ <sup>was</sup> saved. ~~There are rarer gifts than flight~~ <sup>and it was saved</sup> - human courage and noble code had ~~been~~ <sup>been</sup> saved.

[illegible]

3/ That these valourous act was the work of one or two  
men who stood ~~out~~ <sup>for the</sup> alone on the vast stage also



seemed to impress us ~~greatly~~ and move us greatly. In  
an early collectivized age - when man is submerg'd in  
~~the~~ indistinguishable mass - and accounted only as a  
statistic item, or a cog in a vast, impersonal machine, then  
suddenly occurs an event which reemphasizes the supremacy  
importance of the <sup>single</sup> individual - the sovereign franchising of the  
independent human personality - Man as such -  
alone - unmuzzed - the ~~class~~ great drama of unfettered  
splendor, the tragedy of great drama.

How can such a spirit even be coordinated in  
the kind of regimented society which the disfranchisement  
Fascist and communist ~~dictatorships~~ physiognomies of our day  
seek to establish! Here is man - not a tool or  
a pawn, - a slave, the state of the system here is man not  
stamped, a brother to the ox" - Here is man - free,  
creature, endowed with daring and initiative, capable  
of challenge, and self-determination, and prepared to accept responsibility  
and follow through voluntarily and by no compulsion,  
the line of duty - this is the material set, which the  
free society is built - not the servile state!

The world seemed all this in the Carlsen story and  
was profoundly patriotic. For the coming great struggle  
of the world is man against the usurping state and the class  
dictatorships.



4 | The character and moral fortitude which Capt. Carlson demonstrated in the high seas against the forces of nature, other brave men have from time to time demonstrated in other situations and circumstances - but the quality, the courage is the same. It is not the courage of desperation, - when no other course is open - nor that of rashness and lack of discretion - nor the witless and foolish courage which tempts danger for its own sake - It is the courage of free choice, - when other alternatives are open - the deliberate courage in full awareness of <sup>personal</sup> consequences, for the sake of some <sup>worthy</sup> moral end.

The greatest courage is the scientist in the laboratory - experimenting ~~with~~ in a field ~~with~~ and with substances where danger is not remote - the doctor pursuing his duties in situations fraught with <sup>ever</sup> dangers - the explorer in perilous work - the social servant, the idealist, the champion of social justice, the reformer, the new truth <sup>and</sup> the new insight - the man who dares to stand alone by his convictions in the face of the world's misunderstanding and hostility - these are the children of the light - the great men who make a nation great.

They are not always reclaimed in their lifetimes - for their valor is frequently without witnesses - which is, of course, the highest type of valor - and frequently they are condemned and denied by their own generation.

Louis Pasteur, who was himself, the valiant companion of the ~~Sea~~ Valiant, who was most valiantly



attacked during his life - famous for his revolutionary, pioneering  
work in the fields of chemistry and bacteriology, and whom Prof  
Osler characterized as "the most perfect man who has ever  
entered the Kingdom of Jesus" - we said: "A man of science  
should think, what will be said of him in the following  
century - not of the insults or the compliments of his <sup>own</sup> day."

This is true not only of men of science. In fact they do  
not really think very much of what men will say, then - now  
or later. They do what they feel they ought to do - and  
do it as well as they can! The mandate and compulsion  
are from within - from as this too is the reward!

There is also the courage, the bravery & intrepidity  
of our great religion has always urged upon men to be  
strong and unafraid. Moses farewell words to his people before  
he disappeared as yet he said: "Be strong and of good  
courage, fear not nor be affrighted." - and thus, too, was his  
message to Joshua - "Be strong and of good courage, fear not  
neither be discouraged." And to all the faithful - the Psalmist  
speaks: "Be strong and let your heart take courage - all ye  
that wait for the Lord."

To believe is to be unafraid. "The Lord is my light and  
my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold  
of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?"

6. It is not that the faithful are not afraid. All men



know fear. It is man's awareness of danger. The most  
congregations are afraid, but they overcome their fears. The  
faithful find refuge from their fear in God, in a confi-  
dence which dissipates their fears and releases them  
for action acceptable to God. They endure suffering  
and they are not afraid to die - for life in God

can never know death - and is exalted through suffering.  
This is the testament of the martyrs call eyes for whatever  
truly was their supreme devotion - they could fall but they never

6/. That is why great men the spirit could always stand  
alone - in the face of danger and death - (a) Abraham (1728)

(a) Jeremiah: preaching the harsh but healing truth of the  
need for moral regeneration to his people finds himself: a  
man of sharp and contentious to the whole world - He would  
like to leave his people and go from them, and escape to  
some wilderness, in some lodging - place of wayfarer men  
- but - he continues to prophesy - to speak the truth -

"for the word of God was in his heart as it were a  
burning fire shut up in my bones, and I weary  
myself to hold it in, but cannot" (c) Mattathias

(b) Socrates - is condemned to death - for the truth  
which he preached. He was given a chance to escape.  
He refused. for it is "not life but a good life, which is  
dearer to his values" - and he would be drinking from  
his own good life if he circumvented the laws and the  
government of his own state which all his life he tried to strengthen



and purify: "It is better to depart in innocence a sufferer and not a doer of evil; a victim, not, the law, but of men". And so he chose to die rather than escape, to accept death and not renounce his convictions: (1)

(d) The brave Mattathias could stand alone - "Then Mattathias arose and spoke with a loud voice: though all the nations that are under the King's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion, yet will I and my sons and my brothers walk in the covenant of our fathers!"

(e) Meir of Rothenburg - 1300 - <sup>Imperial</sup> ~~Imperial~~ Rabbi, his day - "the light of the eyes" lived in an age of persecution, arrested and imprisoned by the Emperor Rudolph and confined in the fortress of Ensisheim, in Alsace. Friends offered 20,000 silver marks for his release. Rabbi Meir refused freedom - fearing to create a precedent for the extortion of money from Jews by the imprisonment of their Rabbis - For seven years he languished in the prison and there he died.

~~7/ An age needs such men and their example.~~

7/. To stand alone - to endure - to suffer crushing blows and not to give in - that is the courage that our age needs - ~~and there~~

(a) Thomas Edison (Jude)



8/ How much we need that quality of independence & courage  
in government - <sup>to-day</sup> in society generally - where liberty and  
freedom are endangered by <sup>on the part of</sup> ~~limited~~ <sup>conspirators</sup> - by <sup>with-</sup>  
<sup>on the part of</sup> ~~hunting~~ <sup>persecution</sup> by subtle intimidations - to a point where  
a man who speaks to-day of ~~no~~ <sup>peace</sup> - of <sup>international</sup>  
cooperation and good will - of <sup>one</sup> ~~the~~ world is  
suspect - "But there is freedom only for the brave"

(a) Too many of us are content to swim with the tide -  
~~the~~ America needs men of vision and courage - who  
will not succumb to propaganda emanating from within  
our own country or from abroad. - Men of strong, undoubted  
convictions - American convictions - who will struggle to  
keep our country free - even as it becomes militarily strong -  
- and true to its ~~basic~~ <sup>fundamental</sup> principles of freedom and justice as  
it seeks allies among the nations, the youth and involves  
itself in international commitments for security -

(b) There is freedom only for the brave  
(1) Legislators - ~~public~~ <sup>public</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~country~~ <sup>country</sup> - loyal  
to duty - fighting corruption - men of great ability  
a career in our body is there

(2) Educators - loyal to tradition & academic  
freedom - refusing to be intimidated and silenced -

(3) In this great age - in which we live - for it  
is a great age - great souls are needed - leaders, souls  
to guide us - then storms come, dangers lead to Safe Harbor.



tremendous amount of work you have done you haven't been able to get any results?" Instantly, Mr. Edison retorted: "Why, man, I have got a lot of results. *I know several thousand things that won't work.*" When admirers spoke of his genius, Mr. Edison would reply that genius was one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.

His imaginativeness and patience, however, were fed from the springs of determination. Doubtless his determination was an inheritance from his ancestors for it was something deeply ingrained in his personality. A fierce determination drove him on and on from childhood until the infirmities of old age checked him. No obstacle could thwart him. "The world turns aside," an American once said, "to let any man pass who knows whither he is going."

When Edison was sixty-seven years old, a devastating fire destroyed six buildings of the West Orange plant. The loss amounted to five million dollars. The fire, nevertheless, could not dim Edison's ardor. "I'm sixty-seven years old," he declared, "but not too old to make a fresh start tomorrow morning. No one's ever too old to make a fresh start." Characteristically, he dug out of the charred debris a photograph of himself and wrote on the back of it the intrepid words: "Never touched me!"

Three characteristics — imagination, patience and determination, mingled with others — conspired to give America more than a thousand inventions. These included inventions having to do with the stock ticker, telegraphy, the telephone, the phonograph, the incandescent lamp, the electric railway, ores, cement, moving pictures, and the storage battery. Today, millions of people throughout the world are debtors to Edison's many-faceted greatness.

Thomas A. Edison was an individualist. He believed in and strove for independence in thinking. He had no use for the rubber stamp mind. He would have agreed with a contemporary observation that "where all think alike, no one thinks very much."

Recently, it was my privilege to spend a weekend at Glenmont,



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Mr. Edison's home in West Orange, New Jersey. Fortunately, Mr. Edison's unique home is being preserved intact. One of the most interesting experiences I had was to browse through his library. I found that nearly all the books he read were marked by him in pencil. The margins of the pages were crammed with his print-like script which he acquired as a telegrapher. His notations were not endorsements of what he read; rather the pages bristled with terse questions and critical comments. Mr. Edison's mind was like a piece of flint from which flew in all directions the sparks of opposing ideas. He read books — not to make his mind conform to what the author said — but especially to challenge the writer's interpretation of the truth he was stating.

In Mr. Edison's library I came across a book on "Atoms" by a French scientist. On the margins of the pages I found these comments: "No," "How is this known?" "It is nevertheless a hypothesis and a poor one," and lastly, "Is this correct?" Another book on "The Electrical Nature of Matter" had these notations: "Statements vary in this book," "This is a puzzle," and "Yes — if true." In a book by Roger Babson "What is Success?", Mr. Edison had seized on an observation which, I think, reveals his own ethical sensitiveness. Mr. Babson had declared: "A dishonest man cannot be happy." Edison's comment is interesting. He wrote: "Six words as absolutely certain as the astronomical movement of the planets."

In the light of these references, one can readily understand why Mr. Edison was impatient with many things in our present-day system of education. In his diary he said: "Our system of education is a relic of past ages. It consists of parrot-like repetitions. It is a dull study of twenty-six hieroglyphics . . . the most necessary task of civilization is *to teach men to think.*"

Because Mr. Edison had such unusual powers of absorption in what he was doing, few today, I suspect, realize that he had a keen sense of humor. The publication of his diary has brought to light this interesting facet of his personality. And we, in this age of feverish haste and mounting tension, would do well to recognize the importance of humor. For real humor means that one retains a balanced perspective even under emotional stress and strain.