



Nobility of Courage

By Robert Porter Lynch

Of all human qualities, Courage stands at the pinnacle. Not mere bravado, nor unbridled bravery, but uncommon valor driven by care for a commonwealth. Courage marshals might against injustice, yet carefully tempers strength with mercy.

The courageous waste little thought on personal cost, lifting their sights to destiny's distant dreams beckoning beyond present strife. Where others stagger lost in dark caverns, the courageous see light piercing new paths as bleak nights become dawn's early light.

Cowards capitulate to fear as their dreams become dreary deeds. They fracture unity, exhausting great spirits in barrage baked in distrust, discord, disorder. Vitriol and coercion quickly replace vision's vitality. Civilization then fractures along jagged lines.

But the courageous, guided by a clear-eyed virtue, navigate through tumultuous storms and deafening chaos, holding fast to convictions proven in winter's frost and freeze. They stand secure in purpose fused with unwavering commitment to humanity's highest dignity of spirit. No breach can shake steadiness of soul, fear and doubt are destined to melt come springtime's glow.

In end, cynics prove prisoners of their darker cunning and conniving impulses; while the courageous, guided by a moral compass, find passageways through treacherous mountains and across foreboding rivers, transforming their fears into valiant deeds.

The legacies of truly great American leaders, epitomized on Mt. Rushmore, endure as guideposts for humanity's long climb upward. Our age requires such courage to be multiplied, amplified, and organized.



- ◆ *Courage enlarges, cowardice diminishes resources. In desperate straits the fears of the timid aggravate the dangers that imperil the brave.* -- Christian Nevell Bovee
- ◆ *"Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others."* - Aristotle
- ◆ *"Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities...because it is the quality which guarantees all others."*
"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." - Winston Churchill
- ◆ *"Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point."* - C.S. Lewis
- ◆ *"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."* - Maya Angelou
- ◆ *"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear."* - Mark Twain
- ◆ *"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."* - Billy Graham
- ◆ *"Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount."* - Clare Boothe Luce
- ◆ *"Moral courage is elevates the dignity of the human spirit to its highest."* – Robert Porter Lynch

These quotes highlight the centrality of courage as a foundational virtue, one that enables and strengthens all other positive qualities. They suggest that true courage is not merely the absence of fear, but the willingness to act rightly and justly in the face of fear. Courage is portrayed as both an individual and collective good, inspiring others to stand firm in their convictions. Importantly, several of these great thinkers also tie courage to other virtues like compassion, humility, and integrity - it is a force for moral action, not just boldness alone.

Without courage, other virtues are rendered impotent.

Courage – *Strength of Heart* – is the essence of Resilient Trust.

It creates synergy by generating trust, amplifying potential, and expanding resources; while Timidity and Cowardice depletes vitality.

In dire circumstances, courage becomes the catalytic force that empowers others, while cowardice compounds every dangers and amplifies risks.

In times of adversity, great leaders are trusted to energize with boldness of vision and strength of character.

*Courage is Being Committed
to Something Larger than Your Fear*

**Courage is
the Soul
of
Trust &
Truth**

