

The Brown Man's Burden

by Henry Labouchère

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Pile on the brown man's burden
2 To gratify your greed;
Go, clear away the Negroes
4 Who progress would impede;
Be very stern, for truly
6 'Tis useless to be mild
With new-caught, sullen peoples,
8 Half devil and half child.

Pile on the brown man's burden;
10 And, if ye rouse his hate,
Meet his old-fashioned reasons
12 With maxims up to date.
With shells and dum dum bullets
14 A hundred times made plain
The brown man's loss must ever
16 Imply the white man's gain.

Pile on the brown man's burden,
18 Compel him to be free;
Let all your manifestoes
20 Reek with philanthropy.
And if with heathen folly
22 He dares your will dispute,
Then, in the name of freedom,
24 Don't hesitate to shoot.

Pile on the brown man's burden,
26 And if his cry be sore,
That surely need not irk you--
28 Ye've driven slaves before.
Seize on his ports and pastures,
30 The fields his people tread;
Go make from them your living,
32 And mark them with his dead.

Pile on the brown man's burden,
34 Nor do not deem it hard
If you should earn the rancor
36 Of those ye yearn to guard.
The screaming of your Eagle
38 Will drown the victim's sob--
Go on through fire and slaughter.
40 There's dollars in the job.

Pile on the brown man's burden,
42 And through the world proclaim
That ye are Freedom's agent--
44 There's no more paying game!
And, should your own past history
46 Straight in your teeth be thrown,
Retort that independence
48 Is good for whites alone.

Pile on the brown man's burden,
50 With equity have done;
Weak, antiquated scruples
52 Their squeamish course have run,
And though 'tis freedom's banner
54 You're waving in the van,
Reserve for home consumption
56 The sacred "rights of man!"

And if by chance ye falter
58 Or lag along the course,
If, as the blood flows freely,
60 Ye feel some slight remorse,
Hie ye to Rudyard Kipling,
62 Imperialism's prop,
And bid him, for your comfort,
64 Turn on his jingo stop.

Brown Man's Burden Questions:

1. What does the author see as the true motivation behind imperialism? Cite words/lines that make you think this.
2. What are the similarities between this and Kipling's poem?
3. What does the author mean by "your own past history?" (45-46)

The White Man's Burden

by Rudyard Kipling

Published in *McClure's Magazine* (Feb. 1899)

Take up the White Man's burden--
2 Send forth the best ye breed--
Go, bind your sons to exile
4 To serve your captives' need;
To wait, in heavy harness,
6 On fluttered folk and wild--
Your new-caught sullen peoples,
7 Half devil and half child.

Take up the White Man's burden--
10 In patience to abide,
To veil the threat of terror
12 And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple,
14 An hundred times made plain,
To seek another's profit
16 And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden--
18 The savage wars of peace--
Fill full the mouth of Famine,
20 And bid the sickness cease;
And when your goal is nearest
22 (the end for others sought)
Watch sloth and heathen folly
24 Bring all your hope to naught.

Take up the White Man's burden--
26 No iron rule of kings,
But toil of serf and sweeper--
28 The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter,
30 The roads ye shall not tread,
Go, make them with your living
32 And mark them with your dead.

Take up the White Man's burden--
34 And reap his old reward--
The blame of those ye better
36 The hate of those ye guard--
The cry of hosts ye humour
38 (Ah, slowly!) toward the light:--
"Why brought ye us from bondage,
40 Our loved Egyptian night?"

Take up the White Man's burden--
42 Ye dare not stoop to less--
Nor call too loud on Freedom
44 To cloak your weariness.
By all ye will or whisper,
46 By all ye leave or do,
The silent sullen peoples
48 Shall weigh your God and you.

Take up the White Man's burden!
50 Have done with childish days--
The lightly-proffered laurel,
52 The easy ungrudged praise:
Comes now, to search your manhood
54 Through all the thankless years,
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom,
56 The judgment of your peers.

White Man's Burden Questions

1. How are natives portrayed (7-8)?
2. What is the "white man's burden"?
3. What is the "reward" Kipling says they get for bearing the burden (34)?
4. How does Kipling view imperialism? Europeans' role in imperialism?
5. What are some other examples of similar mindsets (either historical or modern) to what Kipling advocates?