

Yet some persons have naturally a more dignified bearing than others, quite apart from 'true' dignity or inward nobility, but this will fail if put to any trial.

Together with this due appreciation of position and a right estimate of responsibilities, comes, as a source of dignity, forgetfulness of self—the power of *voluntary* self abnegation—that which raises man above all creation besides, that which he shares with his Maker, and in which he is permitted to resemble him—the power to

Show himself the creature's lord
By freewill gift of that self sacrifice
Which they perforce by nature's law must suffer.

And lastly, with all this and with forgetfulness of individual self should be the remembrance of the distinguished position which man holds in the universe, as the only creature who partakes the nature of his Creator, the only being beneath whose mortality a glorious immortality lies hid—whose germ cannot fully unfold itself in the feeble rays of this earthly day, for it needs the radiant brightness of the sunshine of eternity to ripen it to perfect fulness.

The uselessness of striving for external dignity is continually seen in the ludicrous and hopeless efforts made for it by persons suddenly raised above the position in life to which they have been accustomed.

It must and should be striven for, not outwardly, but in its highest meaning of "worth," worthily to fill the position in which we have been placed—worthily to use whatever, of power, influence, talents, have been committed to us—an endeavour to do our duty to the utmost consideration for others, a spirit of self sacrifice, and that perpetual and humble recollectedness which springs from the consciousness of an ever present Deity, these are the best helps to that dignity of thought and feeling which will be characterized by dignity of action and behaviour.

And of all this, Christianity is the best teacher. Philosophy may do much, any religion may do much—and grandly dignified were some of the sages of old—but no philosophy, no religion, can teach "true" dignity as well or as truly as that which is founded on humility.