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✱ BE HEROIC! ✱

“SO, then, do not think that conspicuity is necessary to heroism. Only now and then is a gold vein found and brought to light, but the mountains are full of gold veins. Only now and then is a pearl found and worn, but there are myriads of pearls hidden in oysters beneath the waters of the sea. And there are many heroes obscured by coverings as homely as the oyster, and when God makes up His jewels not one of them shall be left out. Do not say, ‘Nobody will know it if I am heroic.’ Yes, somebody will know it whose touch is immortality, whose love is better than the ownership of the round world, and who has in reserve for you a life higher than that of the body, nobler than that of the flesh.

Be more disinterested, then, than Society requires you to be. Be more virtuous than the laws require you to be. Do not be afraid to spend yourself. Do not hesitate to risk yourself. Do not shrink from treading on principle. It will carry you, as a bridge, over the deepest and darkest chasm that exists. Trust truth, and purity, and integrity, and benevolence. Give yourself to them. Throw yourself impetuously, enthusiastically, into them, and do not wait to see if anybody sees you. Do not care what anybody says. Be unconscious, so far as men are concerned, for you may be sure that He who registered the act of the poor widow in the temple, and who registered the example of Mary of Bethany, and held them up to everlasting remembrance, will see and remember every good deed that you perform, and will reward you in the other life with a remuneration transcending all thought of pleasure or profit on earth.”—Henry Ward Beecher.