

WHAT IS THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN?

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O Bard of England, say!

Who laid it on his shoulders?

Who traced his bloody way?

Who gave into his power

The millions o'er the sea?

Dar'st thou to say Jehovah

Has framed such dread decree?

What though ye toil and pray for

An end for others sought;

Yet woe to him who enters

On fields where ye have wrought!

The Russian burden-bearer

Ye face with shell and ball,

What time he looks on India

Across the Afghan's wall.

Ye veil the threat of terror

With cannon's smoky breath,

From whose grim mouths your captives

Are blown to horrid death.

The show of pride — ah! brothers,

Would ye see, as others can,

Your bearing toward the weaker,

Ask them of Hindostan.

Is freedom in the tropics

Less dear than in the North?

Would Bunker Hill, in Asia,

Lose all its patriot worth?

May haughty Saxon armies
 Sweep through the Eastern world,
 To civilize or murder,
 With bloody flags unfurled ?

Go, search the blessed Gospels,
 And find us, if ye can,
 The white man's special warrant
 To hunt his fellow-man.
 Proclaim your new beatitude,—
 "Blessed are ye who slay
 For love and for humanity
 The Arab or Malay."

Am I my brother's keeper,
 To keep with bolt and chain,
 To civilize with grape-shot ;
 A missionary Cain ?
 Nay, Heaven forbid ! no keeper
 Our weaker brethren crave.
 The Malay is our brother :
 He may not be our slave.

Call back the conquering armies,
 Call back the battle-ships ;
 Nor preach a bloody gospel
 With hypocritic lips.
 'Tis not our God who calls us
 To conquest o'er the sea ;
 Nor this the voice that sounded
 From far-off Galilee.

Take up a holier burden,
 Bring love and help and peace

Among these sullen peoples,
And bid the battle cease.
Go, in the name of Freedom,
And Freedom's mighty Lord.
Go! Bear the cross among them,
And not the gleaming sword!

Fair Mother, thou canst send us
A message nobler far.
Bring Runnymede before us,
And not the Dervish war.
We honor all thy virtues:
We dare not, e'en from thee,
Accept this evil counsel,
The Christian pirate's plea.

David Greene Haskins, Jr.