



What is the White Man's Burden?

Does destiny demand  
His back be laden higher  
By every dusky hand?  
Am I my brother's keeper,  
Or keeper of his lands?

What is the White Man's Burden?

Is it the mounting flood  
Of treasure, vain to vanquish  
The tides of patriot blood,  
While our supremest jewel  
Is trampled in the mud?

What is the White Man's burden

That weighs upon his sleep?  
To hear the hundreds dying?  
To see the thousands weep?  
Oh, wanton war that haunts him!  
Oh, seed that he must reap!

What is the White Man's burden—

The burden of his song  
That once was "Peace and Justice;  
The Weak beside the Strong?"  
He falters in the singing  
At memory of the wrong.

What though our vaunt of Freedom

Must evermore be mute,  
And the trading of men's vices  
Drag both below the brute;  
Go bribe new ships to bring it—  
The White Man's burden—loot!