

Thomas Carlyle
On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History

IN THE BOOK – Final Chapter

She has taken to hero worship and promotes Arnold in this spirit.

I said it not as it is my total thought, but that I know hero worship appeals to the young.

Article – Non – Academic

Hero Worship! This article will be non-academic. Hero worship Kobe and culturist team identity. Jerry Buss' big thoughts and achievements.

Perhaps sports increase in importance as patriotism declines. We must cheer for some God / Side.

Minimal stimulus / groups literature could fill in here. Buss was not good in the traditional platonic sense, but he has given me wholesome thrills for 20 years

Lecture 1. The Hero as Divinity. Odin. Paganism: Scandinavian Mythology

P16 – Ode to nation. “Transport yourselves into the early childhood of nations; the first beautiful morning- light of our Europe, when all yet lay in fresh young radiance as of a great sunrise, and our Europe was first beginning to think, to be!”

19 Valor makes you a God

20 IN THE BOOK “Valor is the fountain of . . . all that is great an good in a man.

21 Hamlet is Nordic in derivation

25 The point of an era is to do hero worship well.

27 IN THE BOOK – In the desert speak of the need to build civilization. Also, tell of the Muhammeden and Christians and so forth having an era in which they aim to emulate the hero. The course of Western civilization being just so. We can then engage in debate about who we worship in America. To live as George Washington, to understand Socrates, such are our models. But, we worship commercials now. The West is severed from our past. WWGWD.

Lecture 2. The Hero as Prophet. Mohomet Islam 25

27 In the book In the desert, speak of the need to build civilization; for naturally all is nothing.

41 POSSIBLE POST - “Not happiness, but something higher: one sees this even in the frivolous classes, with their “point of honor” and the like. Not by flattering our appetites; no, by awakening the Heroic that slumber in every heart, can any Religion gain followers. “

44 Muhammed is better than Bentham. He provides a spiritual mission beyond the mechanical.

45 – Great man is like the lightening out of heaven

Lecture 3. The Hero as poet. Dante: Shakespeare. 46

46 – Poet hero must lead a heroic life

47 – How the poet reads the world is most important thing. Poet and prophet used to be more or less synonymous. The prophet tells us what to do, the poet, what to love.

48 The beautiful is better than the moral as it also includes the moral

All men are poets to some degree

Unlike normal speech, poetry is musical. As such it touches some deep resonance. Here Carlyle is equating resonance with that of the truth of the spiritual world.

53 – That song is poetry, not is prose painfully crammed And why poetry when prose could have served Dante just as well?

58 – Dante beats Mohammed. This is because Muhammed conquered much but, in Carlyle's thought, Muhammed will die because his writing is poor. Dante speaks to all of us eloquently, eternally. This analysis is very Blanche DuBois.

59 – Shakespeare was lower for having to reach the masses. But, in his great flights he touches the soul, uplifts, and creates awe. Shakespeare holds up Western Civilization for the modern era as Dante did for the religious era.

61 – Shakespeare, sees beyond the surface

62 – Words disconnect from reality; we can have no feet, but no morality / intellect – this is unthinkable.

66 – 67 Empires come and go. Dante / Shakespeare live. Only they can make the empire peaceful.

Great leaders are often without any words.

Lecture 4. The Hero as Priest. Luther; Reformation: Knox; Puritanism. 68

71 – Carlyle sees truth of a time as parochial – for him Islam will fade and all heroes will become universal.

71 – A grand theme of prophets, is smashing up idols (Luther and Muhammad for example, did this).

72 – They attack insincere idolatry. All Prophets do this.

73 – We could think We could think Luther ended idols and made us each Popes. He hopes not because without sovereign he sees nothing but anarchy. It is just a revolt against FALSE sovereigns. We still need role models.

Faithful self-scrutiny does not lead to individual isolation.

78 – Individuality and originality are enhanced by hero-worship.

84 – “Puritanism has got weapons and sinews; it has firearms, war-navies; it has cunning in its ten fingers, strength in its right arm; it can steer ships, fell forests, remove mountains; it is one of the strongest things under the sun at present.

85 – Protestantism turned Scotland into a nation of heroes. It was nothing and now had the Scottish Enlightenment. But he focuses on Knox.

86 – Reminder = the primary characteristic of a hero is that he is sincere.

90- The spiritual always determines the material.

Lecture 5. The Hero as Man of Letters. Johnson, Rousseau, Burns. 90

91 – The hero lives in the inward sphere. Fichte found the divine idea of the world

91 – Hero is the man of letters steering the multitude from the false unheroic. MA overtly says this is his goal in the book.

93 – The writer of a book is a preacher; Books magically bring Greece back; Romance novels tell girls how to marry.

94 – One rich man's book read to many was the basis of the university. A university would be centered on a collection of books.

94 – 95 If you writing a book that persuades people, you are the nation's bishop.

95 - The Fourth Estate is more important than the politicians. Literature is our Parliament too. If you invent printing, democracy is inevitable.

96 – Every brick in a city started as an idea, via thought.

96 – Govt funds are not as important as a vow of poverty, to the artist. A vow of poverty helps them think beyond money and corporate ambition.

98 – The government rule by literary type, as Carlyle thinks may be the case in China, is praised.

101 – Bentham and machines are not as good as Mohammed (who can inspire) a Christian nation has a soul.

101- Rather than silence on 1st things or doubt on display, we need belief – it is sad when all we believe is in food or money.

102 IN THE BOOK – If we cannot believe in God at least we can believe in the virtue of the West and the thought / discipline it needs. Ours is a heroic civilization requiring heroes.

103- Prophets denounce false idols. Easy targets. The literary man has it harder. He must clear our false idols within. He has had the light of his own soul taken from him.

104 – Much on self-reliance, manly taking care of one's own as heroic.

104 – Great men are always submissive to that which is above them; only small souls are otherwise.

105 – Artificial things are true.

112 – Uses the word "Manly." As what constitutes that when you teach.

Lecture 6. The Hero as a King. Cromwell, Napoleon: Modern Revolutionism 114

114 – The final type of hero is the King. The root word of this word means "Able – Man."

116 – Divine Right, had, as it was, some merit. It taught respect. Bad rulers and poor obedience are bad. The opposite is the best that can happen.

118 – Liberty and especial via the French Revolution showed no one is special; no striving. We doubt to the point of trusting no heroes at all. But loyalty persists and man is revelation in flesh. We all seek order, even when revolutionaries.

119 – The Puritans strip away heroes and religious forms. This is too much.

120 – Puritans being free from trappings leads us to having freedom as a value.

122 – You can overtax without rebellion. But you cannot ask a man to worship a false idol w/o one.

123 – Folks say Cromwell was a scheming liar. Carlyle doubts this as sincerity is key to success as a hero.

130 – Beautiful ode to silence – knowing – not chatter.

130 – The meaning of life here on earth might be defined as consisting in this: To unfold your Self, to work what thing you have the faculty for. It is a necessity for the human being, the first law of our existence.

133 – Kings are necessary in battles. Without one, you'll lose, with one, you can beat the odds. You need someone to rally the heroic in the troops as in Henry iV.