



Sample Moments of Inspiration

It Couldn't be Done

*Somebody said that it couldn't be done, But, he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.*

*There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle it in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "couldn't be done," and you'll do it.*

-Edgar Albert Guest

My fellow Rotarians, you have this power. This power to use language to share your ideas, to touch hearts, and to bring about change in the world. As Rotarians, we have the power to speak and share, to explain and to educate, to inspire and to influence. It is our responsibility to share our talents and ideas and to find meaning in other people's messages. May we use our skills to provide service to others less fortunate and help them to be self-sustaining. May we continue to grow as Rotarians so that we stand in our community as a symbol of those willing to freely put service above self and make this, our community, and the world a better place to live.

Let us renew our obligation of Service to Mankind, just as the return of spring renews growth in the world around us, with a new commitment to help others in our community, our nation, and our world. With the power, influence, and wealth that we as leaders in this place most certainly have, let us always remember that these are a blessing, and that charity is more fulfilling than decadence, and the Golden Rule is a much richer yardstick than any bank account.

As we enjoy our fellowship, let us remember how fortunate we are to be able to serve our brothers and sisters around the world through our great organization, and its astonishing Foundation.

That we are prosperous, enables us to give of our material wealth. That we are free, enables us to work together on projects. That we are generous, enables us to work together to achieve amazing successes. And that we are dedicated, brings us together as our Club's leaders and members so that we may continue with these efforts.

Let us take a moment to remember all the religions represented in the Rotary family, Let us also recall that when we were invited to join our Rotary clubs we were not asked are you a Protestant, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Jew, a Catholic or a Buddhist, or a Sikh. You were not asked because all religions are welcome in the Rotary family.

Please join me in a moment of reflection and thanks with these words

With our friends beside us,
And no person beneath us,
With the bonds of Rotary Between us,
And our worries behind us,
With our goals before us,
And no task beyond us,
With a thirst for knowledge,
And a dream of a Polio free world,
We are thankful for our Rotary friends and the meal we are about to share.

The paths of our lives are filled with peaks and valleys. When we are on the top of our peaks, we become so self-satisfied that we tend to ignore the things of importance. When we are in a valley, we feel a sense of abandon and again can focus only on what is directly ahead. Let us be mindful that above the tree line the mountain-tops are barren and only in the valleys can we find the opportunity for true growth.

Will you please bow your head with me.
Let us pray silently together, each one of us, according to our individual beliefs.
Let us offer thanks for our food, blessings for one another.
Let us be a source of hope for those in need,
and contentment for those who are lonely.
Let us give gratitude for our opportunity to serve Rotary.
Let the feelings of love, kindness, and a well-directed, yet gentle spirit always be reflected in our actions.

May those assembled here today enjoy the many offerings of Rotary. May we abide by the rules we have established, those of trust, fellowship and ethics, and may we place Service above Self, in our daily endeavors. And may we always test ourselves and our efforts to be sure they are the truth, good for all concerned, of benefit to mankind, and provide peace and understanding.

It is good to recognize how different we are. Our talents, our dreams, our backgrounds, our occupations. No one is exactly like anyone else. Even our thumb print and our voice track tell us how unique we are. Yet, we are thankful that we can take these differences and mobilize them for the good of Rotary and our community. In our differences we can think the same thoughts and move together toward a common goal. We are thankful for our individuality and also for our common bond.

American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist, **Langston Hughes**, once wrote:

*Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die,
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.*

*Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go,
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.*

As we gather together today as People of Action,

Let us be grateful for all who dream of a world at peace and free from polio.

Let us each, according to our individual beliefs, offer gratitude and blessings for one another and for the food of which we are about to partake.

Let us honor and support those people – past, present and future – who have sacrificed much for our dreams of a free world.

Let us continue to be a source of hope for those in need.

May those who could not join us today be surrounded by grace and light.

Let us give gratitude for our opportunities to serve,

And let our feelings of love and kindness always be reflected in our dreams and actions.