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## *The Character of a Happy Life*

**Sir Henry Wotton**

How happy is he born and taught  
That serveth not another's will;  
Whose armour is his honest thought,  
And simple truth his utmost skill!

Whose passions not his masters are;  
Whose soul is still prepared for death,  
Untied unto the world by care  
Of public fame or private breath;

Who envies none that chance doth raise,  
Nor vice; who never understood  
How deepest wounds are given by praise;  
Nor rules of state, but rules of good;

Who hath his life from rumours freed;  
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;  
Whose state can neither flatterers feed,  
Nor ruin make oppressors great;

Who God doth late and early pray  
More of His grace than gifts to lend;  
And entertains the harmless day

—This man is freed from servile bands  
Of hope to rise or fear to fall:  
Lord of himself, though not of lands,  
And having nothing, yet hath all.