

# THE FIVE NATIONS

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## THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

TAKE up the White Man's burden—  
Send forth the best ye breed—  
Go bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need ;  
To wait in heavy harness,  
On fluttered folk and wild—  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,  
Half-devil and half-child.

Take up the White Man's burden—  
In patience to abide,  
To veil the threat of terror  
And check the show of pride ;  
By open speech and simple,  
An hundred times made plain,  
To seek another's profit,  
And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden—

    The savage wars of peace—  
Fill full the mouth of Famine  
    And bid the sickness cease;  
And when your goal is nearest  
    The end for others sought,  
Watch Sloth and heathen Folly  
    Bring all your hope to nought.

Take up the White Man's burden—

    No tawdry rule of kings,  
But toil of serf and sweeper—  
    The tale of common things.  
The ports ye shall not enter,  
    The roads ye shall not tread,  
Go make them with your living,  
    And mark them with your dead.

Take up the White Man's burden—

    And reap his old reward:  
The blame of those ye better,  
    The hate of those ye guard—

The cry of hosts ye humour  
    (Ah, slowly !) toward the light :—  
'Why brought ye us from bondage,  
    Our loved Egyptian night ?'

Take up the White Man's burden—  
    Ye dare not stoop to less—  
Nor call too loud on Freedom  
    To cloak your weariness ;  
By all ye cry or whisper,  
    By all ye leave or do,  
The silent, sullen peoples  
    Shall weigh your Gods and you.

Take up the White Man's burden—  
    Have done with childish days—  
The lightly proffered laurel,  
    The easy, ungrudged praise.  
Comes now, to search your manhood  
    Through all the thankless years,  
Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom,  
    The judgment of your peers !