IT CAN BE DONE
Poems for Hardship, Sacrifice and Dominion
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EDITED BY:
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MERCHANT ADVENTURERS
Wake Forest, North Carolina
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My first exposure to these poems came when I arrived home one day and was met by my wife Deborah at the door. With book in hand, she began to read poems with the express purpose of inspiring me. The first poem she read was, “It Couldn’t Be Done,” and I was hooked.

These poems are about real life. They will make you smile, square your jaw, lighten your load, heighten your step, and grow rebar in your spine. They will lift you up, make you soar, and give you a view of the smallness of your problems. They will help you think bigger, feel better, laugh harder, and eat your problems for breakfast.

The book was originally published in 1921 and contained 239 poems. I have cut these down to my favorites - the ones my wife read to me in her quest to be a good helper of her husband by inspiring him that, “It Can Be Done!”

This is a book for the rescue of 21st Century manhood and womanhood. The world needs real men and women today.
Our world is sick with feminized, soft, mollycoddling, sensitive males who are always looking for permission and affirmation and certification to do anything. These male maladies are ripping our culture apart. The average male today never grows up and rarely leads. He is an emotional basket case, constantly jerked around by his feelings - not governed by eternal principles. He is worried about his hair, spends his life playing games and has a therapist. The result is, he settles for “whatever.”

Our world needs real women as well. It is reeling under the influence of dizzy ditzy women whose vision is centered around themselves. It is languishing at the hands of women whose energy and joy have dissolved under the pressures of life. Instead, we need strong women who refuse to be unraveled or frightened by any fear. The world is crying out for a new version of resolute visionary women who are able to rise above their disappointments to see the goal. They sacrifice their lives for their children and follow their men to the ends of the earth.

“It Can Be Done!” by those who look hardship in the face, ready themselves for sacrifice and engage themselves in dominion.
I
It
Can
Be
Done
**IT COULDN’T BE DONE**

After a thing has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. But before it has been done, it is called impossible. One reason why people fear to embark upon great enterprises is that they see all the difficulties at once. They know they could succeed in the initial tasks, but they shrink from what is to follow. Yet “a thing begun is half done.” Moreover the surmounting of the first barrier gives strength and ingenuity for the harder ones beyond. Mountains viewed from a distance seem to be unscalable. But they can be climbed, and the way to begin is to take the first upward step. From that moment the mountains are less high. As Hannibal led his army across the foothills, then among the upper ranges, and finally over the loftiest peaks and passes of the Alps, or as Peary pushed farther and farther into the solitudes that encompass the North Pole, so can you achieve any purpose whatsoever if you heed not the doubters, meet each problem as it arises, and keep ever with you the assurance It Can 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._
IT CAN BE DONE

Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you’ll never do that;
At least no one ever 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 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 “cannot be done,” and you’ll do it.

EDGAR A. GUEST