
Sobriety

by Eugene V. Debs

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This word, forming as it does one of the trio of the Motto of our Order, means, and is intended to mean, much. It not only means abstinence from the use of intoxicants, but it means sobriety in language, in judgment, in action, and in thought. "The sobriety of riper years." It is as great an evil to be overheated in imagination; inordinate in the manifestation of passion; and intemperate in the use of language — often leading to the commission of as great crimes, and entailing as much suffering upon humanity as the excessive use of liquors. It is the aim of the Order to avoid all these evils, and our motto means just that much — no more, no less. We do not mean that men should become stoics, refuse to smile, or to take an pleasure in the things of this life. We mean that they should do all things coolly and deliberately; let judgment ever hold her seat in the court of reason, and mold and guide the head and heart.

Sobriety means more than simply "*don't drink*" — it means do not under any circumstances allow the animal to control the mental; do not subject yourself to the humiliating self-examination that will pronounce you a fool for the want of better judgment. *Think well of yourself; merit* the good opinion you have of your own worth, and the world will not be slow to learn the fact and to give you credit for it. Be sober in all things; intemperate in nothing. With this resolve molding your life and shaping your acts, the world will be the better for your having lived in it, and you will reap the reward of a conscience void of offense, and that degree of happiness that comes to the lives of very few children of earth.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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