

# ENTHUSIASM

## *Ambition, Initiative and Zeal*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 1095 Ambition's like a circle on the water,  
Which never ceases to enlarge itself,  
'Till by broad spreading it disperses to nought.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1096 Earnestness is enthusiasm tempered by reason.  
Pascal (1623-1662)
- 1097 The sense of this word among the Greeks affords the noblest  
definition of it: enthusiasm signifies God in us.  
Germaine De Stael (1766-1817)
- 1098 Initiative is doing the right thing without being told.  
Victor Hugo (1802-1885)
- 1099 Enthusiasm is the mother of effort...  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 1100 Enthusiasm...the sustaining power of all great action.  
Samuel Smiles (1812-1904)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 1101 Though ambition in itself is a vice,  
yet it is often the parent of virtues.  
Quintilian (35-90 A.D.)
- 1102 One often passes from love to ambition,  
but one rarely returns from ambition to love.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1103 The ambitious deceive themselves when they propose an end  
to their ambition; for that end, when attained, becomes a  
means.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1104 Zeal is fit for wise men, but flourishes chiefly among  
fools.  
John Tillotson (1630-1694)
- 1105 I prefer the errors of enthusiasm to the indifference of  
wisdom.  
Anatole France (1844-1924)

**3. INSIGHT**

- 1106 Ambition is so powerful a passion in the human breast  
that however high we reach we are never satisfied.  
Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- 1107 The very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow  
of a dream.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1108 Like dogs in a chain, birds in a cage, or squirrels in a  
wheel, ambitious men still climb and climb, with great  
labor, and incessant anxiety, but never reach the top.  
Robert Burton (1576-1640)
- 1109 Ambition is like love, impatient both of delays and rivals.  
John Denham (1615-1668)
- 1110 Ambition makes the same mistake concerning power  
that avarice makes concerning wealth.  
She begins by accumulating power as a means to happiness,  
and she finishes by continuing to accumulate it as an end.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 1111 Every production of genius must be the production of  
enthusiasm.  
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 1112 Ambition is not what man does...  
but what man would do.  
Robert Browning (1812-1889)
- 1113 Experience shows that success is due less to ability  
than to zeal. The winner is he who gives himself to  
his work body and soul.  
Charles Buxton (1823-1871)
- 1114 Perpetual inspiration is as necessary to the life of good-  
ness, holiness and happiness as perpetual respiration is  
necessary to animal life.  
Andrew Bonar Law (1858-1923)

**4. POSITIVE**

- 1115 He who possesses the source of Enthusiasm  
Will achieve great things.  
Doubt not. You will gather friends around you  
As a hair clasp gathers the hair.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)

- 1116 To be ambitious of true honor, of the true glory and perfection of our natures, is the very principle and incentive of virtue.  
Philip Sidney (1554-1586)
- 1117 Ambition and love are the wings to great deeds.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 1118 All noble enthusiasms pass through a feverish stage, and grow wiser and more serene.  
Channing (1780-1842)
- 1119 Every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is the triumph of some enthusiasm.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 1120 Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm; it moves stones, it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity and truth accomplishes no victories without it.  
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)
- 1121 It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes life worth living.  
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)
- 1122 Ambition is the germ from which all growth of nobleness proceeds.  
Thomas English (1819-1902)
- 1123 Enthusiasm is the inspiration of everything great. Without it no man is to be feared, and with it none despised.  
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 1124 Fires can't be made with dead embers, nor can enthusiasm be stirred by spiritless men. Enthusiasm in our daily work lightens effort and turns even labor into pleasant tasks.  
Stanley Baldwin (1867-1947)

## 5. NEGATIVE

- 1125 The ambitious will always be first in the crowd; he presseth forward, he looketh not behind him. More anguish is it to his mind to see one before him, than joy to leave thousands at a distance.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 1126 Ambition destroys its possessor.  
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)

- 1127 It is the constant fault and inseparable evil quality of ambition that it never looks behind it.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1128 Zeal without knowledge is the sister of folly.  
John Davies (1570-1626)
- 1129 Ambition, a proud covetousness, or a dry thirst of honour, a great torture of the mind, composed of envy, pride, and covetousness, a gallant madness, one defines it a pleasant poison.  
Robert Burton (1576-1640)
- 1130 A slave has but one master; the ambitious man has as many masters as there are persons whose aid may contribute to the advancement of his fortune.  
La Bruyere (1645-1696)
- 1131 Ambition - A lust that is never quenched, grows more inflamed and madder by enjoyment.  
Thomas Otway (1652-1685)
- 1132 Ambition is a vice which often puts men upon doing the meanest offices; so climbing is performed in the same posture with creeping.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 1133 There is no greater sign of a general decay of virtue in a nation, than a want of zeal in its inhabitants for the good of their country.  
Addison (1672-1719)
- 1134 There is no zeal blinder than that which is inspired with a love of justice against offenders.  
Henry Fielding (1707-1754)
- 1135 Ambition breaks the ties of blood, and forgets the obligations of gratitude.  
Walter Scott (1771-1832)
- 1136 Ambition has but one reward for all:  
A little power, a little transient fame;  
A grave to rest in, and a fading name!  
William Winter (1836-1917)
- 1137 Ambition: An overmastering desire to be vilified by enemies while living and made ridiculous by friends when dead.  
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)

**6. ADVICE**

- 1138 Through zeal knowledge is gotten, through lack of zeal  
knowledge is lost; let a man who knows this double path of  
gain and loss thus place himself that knowledge may grow.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 1139 If you wish to reach the highest, begin at the lowest.  
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 1140 Fling away ambition; by that sin fell the angels:  
how can man then, the image of his Maker, hope to win by it?  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1141 Be always displeas'd at what thou art,  
if thou desire to attain to what thou art not;  
for where thou hast pleas'd thyself, there thou abidest.  
Quarles (1592-1644)
- 1142 Our ambition should be to rule ourselves, the true kingdom  
for each one of us; and true progress is to know more, and  
be more, and to do more.  
Lubbock (1834-1913)

**7. POTPOURRI**

- 1143 Too low they build who build beneath the stars.  
Young (1683-1765)
- 1144 To be happy at home is the ultimate result of all  
ambition, the end to which every enterprise and labor  
tends, and of which every desire prompts the prosecution.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 1145 Ambition is an idol, on whose wings  
Great minds are carried only to extreme;  
To be sublimely great or to be nothing.  
Robert Southey (1774-1843)
- 1146 Enthusiasm is the leaping lightning, not to be measured by  
the horse-power of the understanding.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 1147 Zealots have an idol, to which they consecrate themselves  
high-priests, and deem it holy work to offer sacrifices  
of whatever is most precious.  
Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)