

The Power of Imagination Over Men

WHEN the People of the Primeval Forest gathered around the camp-fire, who strengthened their hearts against the fears of the night? The story-teller, with his pictures of mythical heroes who had conquered the foes of woods and cave.

When the medieval knights gathered in the castle-hall on the eve of tournament or battle, who strengthened their courage for the morrow? The minstrel, with his tales of legendary deeds, of the triumph of courage over cunning, of honor over falsehood.

In the present-day world, who is of greatest inspiration in the battle of life? The professor with his lectures? The preacher with his sermons? The writer of article and editorial? Unquestionably these have their great power. But the greatest power and inspiration of all comes from the writer of good fiction, as it has in all ages.

Why? Because good fiction is the truth about life, the interpretation of life.

Good fiction is honest and searching. It shows what forces underlie accomplishment, what insidious temptations lead to compromise and defeat.

It punctures tawdry pretence. It reveals the nobility in humble lives. It proves that rich and poor, ancient man and modern, scientist and priest, sea-captain and captain of industry, housewife and clubwoman, are bound together by common humanity.



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Cosmopolitan

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