

Self-Sacrifice

James Allen,
Poems of Peace

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Great glory crowns the heights of hope by
arduous struggle won;
Bright honor rounds the hoary head that mighty
works hath done;
Fair riches come to him who strives in ways of
golden gain,
And fame enshrines his name who works with
genius-glowing brain:
But greater glory waits for him who, in the bloodless
strife
'Gainst self and wrong, adopts, in love, the
sacrificial life;
And brighter honor rounds the brow of him who, 'mid
the scorns
Of blind idolaters of self, accepts the crown of
thorns;
And fairer, purer riches come to him greatly strives
To walk in ways of love and truth to sweeten human
lives;
And he who serveth well mankind exchanges
fleeting fame
For Light eternal, Joy and Peace, and robes of
heavenly flame.