

American Literature
Matt Robbins
October 7, 1996
Why I have no Hero

What is a hero? Does one have to have superpowers, special abilities or incredible talent to be considered one? Well, some of us seem to think so. Then there is the everyday teacher or local figure that is considered a hero to selected individuals in their community. To me a hero has to have a few selected qualities, and I haven't met anyone who can fulfill all three.

First, a hero must be good at heart. A hero has to know how to give and take accordingly. When he/she is needed to make a great sacrifice to help the community, their closest friends, or even their greatest enemies, they need to know that it is okay to make that sacrifice and know they did the right thing. That person also needs to go out and make a difference in their community and not need any more motivation than the good feeling they feel when they've made a positive impact on the few people they met with and helped. A person that is to be considered a hero must be naturally good and work for good and be there when they are needed most. They should not have to feel guilty about the negative effects of something they have done if the good it causes out weighs the bad.

Honesty is a good trait to have if you want to be a hero. A hero needs to be honest with the public so that he/she will get the public's support to retain that hero status among them, and possibly gain that status with more individuals. Being honest is a quality that is never usually overlooked in naming someone a hero. This includes being honest with one's self. Honesty with yourself is a very important virtue. It is hard to get through life, especially as a hero, lying or fooling yourself into believing something about yourself or others that you really know is not true. For example; you are seen as a hero to many people, but you know that you did something to wrong many of your followers to better yourself. Even though you knew it was wrong, you did it and you are constantly reminding yourself that it will turn out good and then no one will ever find out. You were trying to fool yourself into believing that you did nothing wrong, but in reality you betrayed "your public."

Trustworthiness is possibly the best and most valuable virtue of a hero in my eyes. In order to retain the hero image you have to be able to be trusted and relied on

to be
there when you said you would. Also, it is necessary for people to trust you and
what you
say to them, and for them to know that you will stick to your word and not let them
down.
To be trustworthy you have to value what you say and say what you mean. If you
would
happen to give a false promise, you will most likely be caught in that lie and lose
the status
you deserve or think you still deserve. You would also be hard pressed to find
someone
that would still believe anything you say after one fairly sizable mistake. That
would really
hurt your image to the people that once loved and admired you so much.

A hero must meet these three standards, and as of yet I know of no one who
can
presently do this. There are hundreds of people who can meet any one of these
characteristics; of these there are probably a few dozen who can fulfill two of
them. But
of all the people I have known and met, is there a person who I look up to, and can
meet
all three of these traits I ask of a hero? No, but maybe somewhere down the road
I'll meet
someone who I will consider a hero, as I have several people in the past. I'm sure
there is
someone out there who strives to meet these and I hope there is.