

1875

INVICTUS

William Ernest Henley

Henley, William Ernest (1849-1903) - English poet, dramatist, and editor who, during his long editorial career in London, published and defended the early works of Kipling, Barrie, and Shaw, among others. He was a pioneer in the use of free verse and is best-known for his poem, "Invictus." Invictus (1875) - Henley wrote this brief poem while in a tuberculosis hospital. Opening lines: Out of the night that covers me, / Black as the Pit from pole to pole, ...

INVICTUS

Out of the night that covers me, Black as the Pit from pole to pole, I thank whatever gods may be For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud.

Under the bludgeonings of chance My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears Looms but the horror of the shade, And yet the menace of the years Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.

THE END