

**WHEN A MAN  
COMES TO HIMSELF**

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When a Man Comes to Himself by Woodrow Wilson

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**WOODROW WILSON**

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**This One**



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WHEN A MAN  
COMES TO HIMSELF

WOODROW WILSON

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**WHEN A MAN COMES  
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## WHEN A MAN COMES TO HIMSELF

### I

**I**T is a very wholesome and regenerating change which a man undergoes when he "comes to himself." It is not only after periods of recklessness or infatuation, when he has played the spendthrift or the fool, that a man comes to himself. He comes to himself after experiences of which he alone may be aware: when he has left off being wholly preoccupied with his own

## WHEN A MAN COMES TO HIMSELF

powers and interests and with every petty plan that centers in himself; when he has cleared his eyes to see the world as it is, and his own true place and function in it.

It is a process of disillusionment. The scales have fallen away. He sees himself soberly, and knows under what conditions his powers must act, as well as what his powers are. He has got rid of earlier prepossessions about the world of men and affairs, both those which were too favorable and those which were too unfavorable — both those of the nursery and those of a young man's reading. He has learned his own paces, or, at any rate, is in a fair way to learn them; has found his footing and the true nature of the "going" he must look for in the

WHEN A MAN COMES TO HIMSELF world; over what sorts of roads he must expect to make his running, and at what expenditure of effort; whither his goal lies, and what cheer he may expect by the way. It is a process of disillusionment, but it disheartens no soundly made man. It brings him into a light which guides instead of deceiving him; a light which does not make the way look cold to any man whose eyes are fit for use in the open, but which shines wholesomely, rather upon the obvious path, like the honest rays of the frank sun, and makes traveling both safe and cheerful.

## II

There is no fixed time in a man's life at which he comes to himself, and