**Power - Stories & Illustrations**

**No nation in history occupies the position that we do today; no state has our global influence. If America gets it right, the rest of the world has a chance to get it right. But we won’t get it right until we understand that our power does not come from capabilities of our military or our government. Our ultimate power comes from the vitality of people free to pursue the American Dream. *(Steve Forbes, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Alcmaeon and Democritus and Hippocrates felt that the brain was the center of intellectual activity. The view was not accepted by Aristotle, however, and thus did not come into its own until modern times. Aristotle considered the brain merely a cooling organ for the blood. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 170)***

**No matter who disagreed with them, even other philosophers, Aristotle's ideas -- whether right or wrong -- usually won out. He thought the heavens were perfect and could not change. He thought only the Earth and the regions below the moon could show change and corruption. To Aristotle, comets were part of the Earth's atmosphere and not really heavenly objects. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 170)***

**If you’re granted “power of attorney” and exercise same, you’re an “attorney in fact.” That’s a person empowered to act for another. To be a lawyer, though, you have to be admitted to practice in a court system. That makes you an “attorney at law.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**When Luther Burbank published his seed catalogue at the turn of the century describing new varieties of plants he had developed by cross-breeding, he was charged with blasphemy and denounced by churches for interfering with nature and bringing forth new creations, a power considered to be God's alone. *(Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts, p. 178)*
Tell First Lady Barbara Bush that people call her the most powerful woman in the United States and she replies, “Oh, come on, please. It's borrowed power. The simple fact is, George is now in office. When the time comes that he's out, we'll both be out. That's the way politics works, and I'm prepared for it. You want to know something about last year's Wellesley commencement speech about family and career choices that was so warmly received? I gave the very same speech at the University of Pennsylvania and at St. Louis University weeks before I gave it at Wellesley. There was no big stir. Nobody covered it. It was the attention caused by the controversy (student criticism) at Wellesley that made headlines and suddenly made my thoughts so worthwhile worldwide. That's again borrowed power.” *(Cindy Adams, in Ladies' Home Journal)*
Who among us would wildly applaud an elephant's ability to crush ants? Why then boast so smugly that our massive military quickly crushed Iraq -- a pipsqueak country? What ant will GOP warmongers crush next? Iran? Syria? North Korea? Do Bushies intend establishing a world empire, thus making countless enemies for Americans? Before rushing into that quagmire, maybe we'd best recall the fate of other empires -- the Romans, Napoleon -- all now flushed down history's sewers. Conquering others to enforce democracy-in-our-own-image provokes dark disaster. An enemy convinced against its will is of the same opinion still (witness the Shiites in Iraq). Perhaps Bushies should read Dale Carnegie's “How to Win Friends and Influence People,” underlining the first half. Instead of bullying and barging preemptively, let's stress removing the world misery that produces the terrorists. (*Ray E. Short, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**Nineteen out of every 20 businesses in the United States and Canada at last report were either owned or controlled by families. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Doesn’t the Church of England have the right to approve or disapprove appointments to the medical profession? On paper, but it doesn’t exercise that right anymore. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**After the Athenians had driven out the tyrant Hippias in 510 B.C., they tried to work out methods to prevent the establishment of another tyranny. Once a year they set up an opportunity for a vote that was aimed not at electing someone, but at exiling someone. Each Athenian could write down the name of a politician he felt was growing too dangerously powerful for the good of the state. If a total of 6000 votes were cast and one man received a majority, he was forced to remain away from Athens for ten years. It was not a disgraceful exile: his property was not confiscated, his family was not mistreated, and, when the decade was up, he was welcomed back. He understood that he had been sent away to be kept from the temptation of trying to upset the democracy. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 170)***

**Once when Lung Wang, an enormous dragon god whose breath stirred up storms, failed to stop an incessant downpour, Cantonese priests imprisoned his image for five days, evidently in the hope that he would think twice next time. Rain gods were also invoked to ease droughts. And the Japanese had a pragmatic punishment for their god if he did not respond; when their entreaties brought no rain, they tossed his image into the parched fields to give him a taste of the drought. *(A. B.C. Whipple)***

**The powerful William the Conqueror became the more powerful Duke of Normandy, and thereafter enforced the Truce of God. It forbade violence on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, which cut murderers down to a three-day week. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Early Egyptians thought a ruler should not hold power indefinitely, so they ritualistically killed their kings in the prime of life replaced said unfortunates. This pattern did not appeal to later pharaohs. Instead of dying in sacrificial ceremonies, they simply resigned, as it were, then replaced themselves with themselves anew every 30 years. Out with the old, in with the new. Same pharaoh. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Our only two elective federal officials not chosen by direct ballot of the people are the president and the vice-president. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The overcoming of Goliath by David illustrates the mastery of the spiritual over the material. Goliath trusted in his armor, which represents the protective power of matter and material conditions. David, spiritual strength, had no armor or material protection. David's power was gained by trust in divine intelligence, through which he saw the weak place in Goliath's armor. Direct to this weak place, with the sling of his concentrated will, he sent a thought that shattered the forehead of the giant. This incident shows how easy it is to overcome the seemingly strong personal and material conditions when the mind of Spirit is brought into action. *(Charles Fillmore, in The Twelve Powers of Man, p. 36)***

**Thomas Jefferson anonymously submitted plans for the proposed residence of the president, but his plans were not accepted. So, when he became president, he designed terraces and colonnades and added them to the White House. It pays to be president, you see. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 243)***

**The profession of journalism has one great advantage: it gives its practitioners a very sharp sense indeed of the sheer buffoonery of power and of those who seek it and exercise it. *(Malcolm Muggeridge, in A Twentieth Century Testimony)***

**Following the course of public events and persons, as a journalist must, constantly confirms the truth of Lord Acton’s well-known dictum: power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. William Blake made the same point more poetically: The strongest poison ever known came from Caesar’s laurel crown. *(Malcolm Muggeridge, in The New York Times)***

**In the boom towns of the Old West ladies of the evening charged an average of $50 for their favors. You had to book them well in advance. Not only did they clean the boys’ wallets, they also made them bathe, shave, and thoroughly wash their clothes. Never underestimate the power of a woman. (*Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 15)***

**“You get a good marriage when the power of love overcomes the love of power.” Our Love and War man does not know who first said that, but he is filing it anyhow. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**What do most great men of history have in common with many lunatics? Megalomania, the compulsion to exercise power. At least, that**

**was the version of English sage Bertrand Russell. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Electoral College system was devised by James Madison. “To break the tyranny of the majority,” he said. A majority’s power, he felt, threatened rights, properties and even lives of minorities. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Louis Pasteur discovered the scientific principle behind vaccines: if a microbe can be weakened just enough, it will lose its power to cause disease but retain the power to confer immunity*. (Peter Jaret, in Reader's Digest)***

**We have become masters of topography. We can rearrange the landscape to suit our fancy, and we can build whatever we please. But having learned to move mountains, we should not forget that mountains still have the power to move us. *(Roger B. Swain, in Saving Graces: Sojourns of a Backyard Biologist)***

**“Let the President press the button and Navy will do the rest any old time,” said Rear Admiral Robley Evans at the culmination of a 14-month, 43,000-mile-trip around the world by Theodore Roosevelt’s “Great White Fleet.” The 16 battleships and their escorts, sent as a peacetime show of naval power in the face of increased tension with Japan, returned to Virginia February 22, 1909. The cruise, the largest of its kind yet attempted, resulted in improved U.,S.-Japanese relations, better ship design – and a recommendation that Navy ships he painted gray. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**The resolve of New Yorkers during the Revolutionary War exemplified the colony’s importance. While New York was one of the largest and richest colonies, state politicians didn’t support the U.S. Constitution, since they’d lose much of their power to a strong central government. Although New York City served as the federal capital beginning in 1785, it took some convincing before lawmakers made New York the 11th state. *(Tidbits)***

**The person who uses political power to force others to conform to his ideas seems inevitably to become corrupted by the power he holds. In due course he comes to believe that power and wisdom are the same thing and, since he has power, he must also have wisdom. At this point he begins to lose his ability to distinguish between what is morally right and what is politically expedient. *(Adm. Ben Moreell)***

**Even though he issued 19 of them last week, President Obama has issued fewer executive orders per day than any other president since Grover Cleveland. *(NYMag.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 1, 2013)***

Under the Royal Marriages Act of 1772, which is still on the books in the U.K., the reigning monarch – currently Queen Elizabeth II – must approve any marriage involving the royal family. *(The New Yorker, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 6, 2011)*

**I feed my Guinea pig and clean his pen. I fill his water bottle up and then repeat the process daily, more or less, because I’m his superior, I guess. Which makes me question human beings and our insatiable, obsessive lust for power. *(Jef Mallett, in Frazz comic strip)***

**The same power that resurrected Jesus from the dead is available to resurrect your body, your relationships, your finances, your work and all else that concerns you. The same power that Jesus used to heal the sick, feed the multitudes and raise the dead is available for you to use. *(Anne Kunath, in Church of Today News)***

**Science and technology have brought incredible advancement to our world. Yet all of it still is under divine law that is exact and unfailing in its operation. God as Principle and the principles of math, music, physics, etc., are the same, just different in expression. We have split the atom and released tremendous power. When we learn to split the Adam, we also release tremendous power, spiritual power that allows us to make incredible advancement in our journey to Wholeness. *(Gerry Comstock, Unity Minister)***

**How sharing power helps companies: Lord Acton taught us that power corrupts, said Rosabeth Moss Kanter. But powerlessness corrupts, too – especially in corporate life. Powerlessness makes itself felt in corporate infighting, apathy, and initiatives that die for lack of follow-through. “Powerlessness is particularly apparent in the middle ranks.” When companies cut midlevel jobs, the remaining people find that their workloads have increased – but not their influence in the organization. So they withdraw their energies and “get even” by “over-controlling their own turf” and venting “their frustrations on others who are even more powerless.” Managers need to head off creeping powerlessness by promoting “deep and wide involvement” in the corporation’s key tasks, through such activities as companywide communications networks and brainstorming sessions. By giving people ownership of the organization’s issues and the ability to do something about them, companies can create a “culture that grows the power pie.” *(The Week magazine, July 16, 2010)***

**In a major league baseball game, an umpire can throw out any player or any manager. Who else? Any spectator. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Unions are strong, true, but they were more powerful once. If you weren’t around then, maybe you’ll be surprised to learn it’s still against federal law to play any sort of music in a profit-making enterprise without paying the musicians’ union. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Dr. A.J. Gordon frequently told the story of an American who with an Englishman was viewing Niagara Falls. Taking the Englishman to the foot of the falls, the American said, “There is the greatest unused power in the whole world.” The Englishman replied, “No, no, my friend. The greatest unused power in the world is the Holy Spirit of the living God.” *(Zula Evelyn Coon, in Worship Services from the Hymns)***

**What made the Vikings such a power back then, I’ve read, was their invention of the keel – it let them sail the open sea. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**At what age did Prince Charles first get to vote? Trick query. As a member of the House of Lords, he is not permitted to vote. Likewise, his mother, the queen, and his father, Prince Philip. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The power of ideals is incalculable. We see no power in a drop of water. But let it get into a crack in the rock and be turned to ice, and it splits the rock; turned into steam it drives the pistons., *(Albert Schweitzer)***

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