

INTEGRITY

THE GUY IN THE GLASS

The following poem was written by Dale Wimbrow in 1934, and its words still ring as true today as they did 80 years ago:

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,
And the world makes you King for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that guy has to say.

For it isn't your Father, or Mother, or Wife,
Who judgement upon you must pass.
The feller whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the guy staring back from the glass.

He's the feller to please, never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear up to the end,
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test
If the guy in the glass is your friend.

You may be like Jack Horner and "chisel" a plum,
And think you're a wonderful guy,
But the man in the glass says you're only a bum
If you can't look him straight in the eye.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years,
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the guy in the glass.

It is said that our true character is what we do when no one is watching.

1. What does the poem say about who is always watching and knows our every action?
2. How important is it for you to make the man in the glass proud of our effort and behavior?
3. Being very honest, when have you cheated the man in the glass?
4. At the end of the day, who gets hurt most when you cheat or take the easy way out?

"If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters." -Alan K. Simpson