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Unbreakable

What does it mean to be unbreakable? Some people think, that a soul can be broken, but then again there are people who say a soul can never be truly broken. In the poem, “Invictus,” the author William Ernest Henley, says that his soul is unbreakable. In the first stanza, he says “I thank whatever gods may be; / for my unconquerable soul.” Henley says that his soul is in charge of himself, and that nobody can rule or command his soul. The god or goddess can pound him into the earth, and stab him but, he will not let the person trying to get his soul, have his soul.

The first stanza line three, the speaker says “I thank whatever gods may be

for my unconquerable soul.” He states that he is thankful for the gods, where ever they are. The word, unconquerable, means nobody can defeat. So, he is saying there is nobody who can defeat his soul. In stanza two, line one and two. The speaker says “In the fell clutch of circumstance/ I have not winced nor cried aloud.” The words “not winced nor cried aloud” means even in a horrible state the speaker might be, but he’s not going to cry out loud.

In stanza three, line one, the speaker says “Beyond this place of wrath and tears

/looms but the Horror of the shade.” The passage, says there much pain, and all he sees is tears, and it is all in the horror of the shade. After many years have passed, he still will not give up the fight. And this is what the speaker says. “And yet the menace of the years/

finds, and shall find, me unafraid.”

The reader may think that he will give in, but the speaker continues to say “For my unconquerable soul.” Maybe not in that exact words, but it is very close. It is still the same concept. In the last stanza, the first line, he again stats that it doesn’t matter the consequence, he is unbreakable, and he is in charge of his soul. “It matters not how strait the gate,/

how charged with punishments the scroll.” The speaker even says it again, that he is in charge of his soul, and nobody else. The speaker says “I am the master of my fate/ I am the captain of my soul.”

Somebody can choose, to be in charge of their soul or not. The speaker told of how he is the captain, and the master of his soul. So, maybe this poem answers the mystery about is a soul unconquerable? In a way, we choose if our soul is conquerable, the speaker has made that very clear. So, here’s the question “Is your soul unconquerable?” William Ernest Henley, made it clear he was in charge of his soul.

By Kilie