Poem #4

“Invictus” by William Ernest Henley

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.

When he was twelve years old, William Henley developed tuberculosis that affected the bone, necessitating the amputation of his foot when he was older. Though many consider the poem inspiring, it gained some negative attention when Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh recited it as his deathbed statement before his execution. The message of the poem, that we are in charge of ourselves and not victims of circumstance, rings true today.
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When he says "captain of my soul," he makes an image of his life as a ship, and he’s the one sailing it.
Memorizing it

“Invictus”

Out of the n______ that c_______ me,
B_____ as the P___ from pole to p____,
   I t_____ whatever g____ may be
   For my u_______ soul.

   In the fell c_______ of c_______
I have not w_______ nor cried a______,
   Under the b________ of chance
My head is b________, but u_______.

B______ this place of w____ and tears
   Looms but the h________ of the s____,
   And yet the m_______ of the y_____
   Finds, and s___ find me, u_______.

   It m______ not how s______ the gate,
   How c_______ with p________ the scroll,
   I am the m_______ of my f_______:
   I am the c_______ of my s______.
Memorizing it

“Invictus”

O__ o_ t_ n____ t__ c____ m_.
B____ a_t_ P__ f__ p_t p___.
I t__ w__ g__ m__ b__
F___ m_u________ s__.

I__ t_ f____ c____ o____
I h__ n__ w______ n__ c__ a____,
U___ t__ b______ o_c__
M__ h___ i__ b________,b__ u______.

B____ t__ p____ o_w___ a_t__
L___ b__ t__ h______ o__ the s__.
A___ y___ t__ m______ o_t_y____
F___,a__ s__ f__ m_,u______.

I__ m______ n__ h_s_____ t__ g__.
H__ c________ w__ p________ t__ s__,
I a_t_ m_______ o_m__ f____:
I a_t_ c______ o_m_s______.