

## **Sense of Duty**

Duty is a much abused word

In the past it has been a much abused moral obligation

It can be subject to moral blackmail

It can be expected from illegitimate sources

Those who died in the trenches did so often as a consequence of duty

Those who spent their health in the appalling conditions of the industrial revolution did so often to  
feed their families.

So duty can have a bad name

The obligation of duty can be manipulated

Never the less

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When you have done all that you were commanded, say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only  
done what is our duty."

Or as they say in Lancashire

"We had it to do"

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Our bodies. The flesh and blood. The organs that make the whole frame work are gift. A gift of God.

The miracle of birth followed by so many other miracles.

This body which is gift needs nourishment

This gift needs sleep.

It needs to make the effort.

But not be pushed beyond its endurance

The gift has been given

There is never the less a duty

You have a duty to maintain this gift

"You have it to do"

Those you love. These are gift. Not extensions of your own ego.

Those you love. They are gift. Not your creation.

They come with obligation which should be free, like the gift.

Why fulfil this obligation

Not so you can be repaid, although this is often done.

Not so you can feel fulfilled by what is achieved, although this is often a consequence.

The gift has been given freely

Thus you have a duty

To give freely

You have a duty to care for this gift

“You have it to do”

This country we live in

The freedoms are a gift of those who fought for them

The culture is a gift of those who formed them

Even the economy confused as its sources are

Is a gift to your generation

That you did little to create

Being a citizen of this or any other country comes with obligation

Obligations which should be freely realised like the gift that has been received

Democracy needs active participation

Community needs active commitment

Even simple kindness needs those who are prepared to respond freely to the obligation of love

The gift has been given freely

Thus you have a duty

To give freely

You have a duty to care for this gift

“You have it to do”

It is true

The whole concept of duty can be manipulated

It is not your duty to be a fool

However

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