



## Quote of the Day

Henry Ward Beecher: The steel that has suffered most is the best steel. It has been in the furnace again and again; it has been on the anvil; it has been tight in the jaws of the vice; it has felt the teeth of the rasp; it has been ground-by emery; it has been heated and hammered and filed until it does not know itself, and it comes out a splendid knife. And if men only knew it, what are called their “misfortunes” are God’s best blessings, for they are the molding influences which give them shapeliness and edge, and durability and power.

in Melville D. Landon, *Kings of the Platform and Pulpit* (Werner Co., 1900), 139

## Sword of Damocles

by Michael G. Maness

The February, 2017, TIME magazine contained a host of articles from world leaders. Amazingly enough, for a usually liberal-slanted news outlet, several articles were from conservative leaders.

One article was by Mikhail Gorbachev, former General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (1985-1991; in '91, the Communist Party of Soviet Union was dissolved). Gorbachev’s closing statement is more than a mere rambling of an elder Russian statesman. One can sense, knowing it was going to be placed in one of the greatest news magazines on earth today, that he measured his words with a sense of hope and a prayer for *other* world leaders regarding the *world’s* responsibility for peace. His last paragraph was:

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said one of the main freedoms is from fear. Today the burden of fear and the stress of bearing it is felt by millions of people, and the main reason for it is militarism, armed conflicts, and the arms race and the nuclear sword of Damocles. Ridding the world of this fear means making people freer. This should become a common goal. Many other problems would then be easier to resolves. The time to decide and act is now.

I felt very good that it was in TIME magazine.

Just so you know, Damocles was sycophant in the court of the tyrant Dionysius II (397-43 B.C.) of Syracuse. The story goes that Damocles exclaimed that, as a great man of power and authority, Dionysius was truly fortunate. Dionysius offered to switch places with him for a day, so he could taste first hand that fortune. In the evening a banquet was held where Damocles very much enjoyed being waited upon like a king. Only at the end of the meal did he look up and notice a sharpened sword hanging directly above his head by a single horse-hair. Immediately, he lost all taste for the amenities and asked leave of the tyrant, saying he no longer wanted to be so fortunate. Dionysius had successfully conveyed a sense of the constant fear in which the great man lives. *Wikipedia 5-15-16.*

*Pray for your country.*



**Sword of Damocles, 1812**  
by Richard Westall