

The poem "A Nation's Strength" is written by *Ralph Waldo Emerson*. In this poem the poet tells us about the secret of nation's strength/greatness. The wealth of a nation can make it neither strong nor great. It is the people who really matter. It can become great and strong only by the countless sacrifices of its people who suffer long for the sake of truth, honour and greatness. Any nation which has ever tried to achieve greatness through battle witnessed the degradation. History bears witness to the fact that the nations who tried to cover themselves with glory through sword, were not for long in the possession of the same. And pride comes before a fall had been proved well in the nations who were blind with pride. The poet says that real strength of a nation lies in the men of character. These men uphold the cause of honour and truth, they remain united and face hardships such men are brave, truthful and steadfast. They do not care about their personal loss as they sacrifice their personal interest in the larger interest of their nation. They bear every trial with courage. While others run away they remain steadfast. They build their nation on the sure foundation of virtue and take it to the highest point of greatness.

1. In stanza first, the poet wonders how a nation achieves greatness, how it builds its foundation, and how it fights with its enemy.
2. The foundations of a strong kingdom are built on its brave men who render countless sacrifices for the sake of truth, honour and greatness.
3. A nation which depends on an army to keep it strong never remains in possession of the same (here nation) for long.
4. Whenever any nation can make it neither strong nor great because the real strength and greatness lies in its brave and courageous men.
5. The brave can sacrifice their interest in the larger interest of their nation because they do not care about their personal loss.
6. The brave can sacrifice their interest in the larger interest of their nation because they do not care about their personal loss.
7. The brave men lay the foundation of their nation very deep and take the same to the highest point of glory through their countless sacrifices.

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