

# “Courage, the Spirit of Daring and Bearing”

by Inazo Nitobe  
(1862–1933)

---

5 The spiritual aspect of valour is evidenced by composure--calm  
presence of mind. Tranquillity is courage in repose. It is a statical  
manifestation of valour, as daring deeds are a dynamical. A truly brave man  
is ever serene; he is never taken by surprise, nothing ruffles the equanimity  
of his spirit. In the heat of battle he remains cool; in the midst of  
catastrophes he keeps level his mind. Earthquakes do not shake him, he  
laughs at storms. We admire him as truly great, who, in the menacing  
presence of danger or death, retains his self-possession; who, for instance,  
10 can compose a poem under impending peril, or hum a strain in the face of  
death. Such indulgence betraying no tremor in the writing or in the voice is  
taken as an infallible index of a large nature--of what we call a capacious  
mind (yoyū), which, far from being pressed or crowded, has always room  
for something more.