

Trust not Future, howe'er pleasant!
 Let the dead Past bury its dead!
 Act—act in the living Present!
 Heart within, and God o'erhead.

Lives of great men all remind us
 We can make our lives sublime,
 And, departing, leave behind us
 Footprints in the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
 Sailing o'er life's solemn main—
 A forlorn and shipwrecked brother—
 Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us then be up and doing
 With a heart for any fate;
 Still achieving, still pursuing
 Learn to labor and to wait.

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW

Vocabulary

bivouac (biv' ü ak, biv' wak)—A temporary encampment, usually with little shelter.

main—The ocean; the open sea (a poetic term).

numbers—Lines or stanzas of poetry.

sublime (səb līm')—Noble; exalted; honorable.

Exercises

1. How can a person's soul be slumbering (a) in the sense that the author meant? (b) in a spiritual sense? (See 1 Thessalonians 5:6.)