
A Gentleman

by Eugene V. Debs

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There is, probably, no word in the English language more universally misapplied among Americans, than the term gentleman. A mistaken sense of politeness employs it to designate any human animal of the masculine gender, and the error is seldom, if ever corrected or even discovered by the person of whose character it is a glaring travesty, and of whose manners it is in reality a satire.

The true gentleman is never rude or boisterous; never coarse or vulgar; he never indulges in boastful arrogance or egotistical self-conceit; his language and manner are never patronizingly condescending towards an inferior, nor does he affect undue humility in the presence of those whose station in life is higher than his own. Above all, his deportment is marked by a tender regard for the feeling and reputation of others, never does he (however great the temptation) wound the former, or lend even a momentary sanction to besmirching the other.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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