

A Message to Garcia

The Power of Initiative. A true story from the year 1899 called, “A Message to Garcia” written by Elbert Hubbard. Here is a brief summary. When the war broke out between Spain and the United States at the turn of the century. The American President needed to get a message to a Cuban revolutionary named Garcia.

He was hiding somewhere on the island of Cuba out of reach of mail or telegraph. Nobody knew how to reach him but an officer suggested that if anyone could do it, it would be an officer by the name of Rowan.

When President McKinley gave the letter to Rowan in Washington DC the officer didn't ask where is he at? How do I get there? What do you want me to do to when I am there? How will I get back?

He just took the message and figured out how to get to Garcia.

He took a train to New York, a ship to Jamaica, broke the Spanish blockade to get to Cuba in a cell boat, then wild carriage rides, marching and riding through the Cuba jungle. 9 days of travelling later, Rowan got the message to Garcia at 9 in the morning, that same afternoon at 5, he started his return journey to the United States.

Giving further insight, the author Elbert Hubbard wrote, “My heart goes out to the man who does his work when his boss is away as well as when he is at home. The man when given a letter to Garcia, quietly takes the missive, without asking any idiotic questions and with no lurking intention of chucking it into the nearest sewer or of doing odd else but deliver it. Civilization is just one long anxious search for such individuals. Anything such a man asks will be granted, his kind is so rare, that no employer can afford to let him go. He is wanted in every city, town and village. In every office, shop, store and factory. The world cries out for such. He is needed and needed badly, the man who can carry a message to Garcia.

Adopted from Stephen R. Covey's book – The 8th Habit (sequel to The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People). Covey talks about people who make things happen, who just do it and show the highest levels of initiative.



William McKinley

25th U.S. President

William McKinley was the 25th President of the United States, serving from March 4, 1897, until his assassination in September 1901, six months into his second term. Wikipedia

Born: January 29, 1843, Niles, Ohio, United States

Full name: William McKinley Jr.

Assassinated: September 14, 1901, Buffalo, New York, United States

<http://www.birdsnest.com/garcia.htm>