

THE IDEAS OF PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE IN J. LONDON'S WORKS

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Annotation: Jack London's works are teeming with themes of patience and persistence, often interwoven with the brutal realities of the natural world and the struggles of individuals against overwhelming odds. These themes are not presented as simple virtues, but rather as essential tools for survival and, sometimes, for achieving a deeper understanding of oneself and the world.

Key words: Martin Eden, Perseverance, Patience, Jack London, writer.

Abstract: American writer. In his youth, he was engaged in many professions. In 1893, for the first time, he was a regular matros on a sea voyage to the Japanese coast. He participated in the 1894 exodus of the unemployed to Washington, D.C., imprisoned for his daily lifestyle, joined political movements. He joined the United States Labor Party in 1895, and the Socialist Party in 1901. He then attended the University of California, Berkeley, and dropped out shortly thereafter. His literary career began in 1893. Most of the writer's story collections, series of short stories, and novels were written on the theme of the North ("The Wolf child", 1900; "children of the trail" 1902). Author of "The Snow Maiden" (1902), "The spark of life" (1907), "The Odyssey of the North" (1910), "trust in Man" (1914), "like the ancient sailors" (1917), "the man with a scar" (1900), "the Golden gorge" (1905) and adventure works. In "in a remote land" (1899), "the female Valor" (1900), "activating the bonfire" (1910), "a short story about winter" (1904), he described the peculiar life of hardworking indeis who harmonized with nature.

The ideas of patience and persistence in Jack London's works Jack London, a prolific American author and social activist, is renowned for his adventurous narratives and vivid depictions of nature's raw power. However, beyond the thrilling settings and gripping plots, London's works echo fundamental themes of patience and persistence. These virtues are often interwoven into the lives of his characters, reflecting not only their struggles but also London's own philosophies shaped by his life experiences.

One of the primary works that exhibit these themes is "The Call of the Wild." The story follows Buck, a domesticated dog who is thrust into the harsh, unforgiving wilderness of the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. Through Buck's transformation from a pampered pet to a resilient leader of a dog sled team, London explores the essence of survival, which is deeply rooted in patience and persistence. Buck's journey is not merely about physical endurance but also a psychological metamorphosis wherein he learns to embrace the challenges of the wilderness. His ability to adapt to the brutal environment and persistent pursuit of leadership amidst adversity encapsulate London's belief in the importance of resilience in the face of overwhelming odds. Similarly, "White Fang" serves as another poignant exploration of these themes. The titular character, a wolf-dog hybrid, represents the struggle between nature and nurture. White Fang's life journey—marked by neglect, abuse, and eventual love—illustrates the relentless pace of survival in the wild. Through his trials, London emphasizes that patience is essential not only for survival but also for growth and

understanding. Readers witness how White Fang's persistence in overcoming his instincts and learning to trust humans ultimately leads to a deeper connection with his new owner. This narrative reinforces the notion that true strength often lies in the ability to remain steadfast when faced with adversity.

London's own life experiences shaped his understanding of patience and persistence. Raised in a working-class family and having spent his youth in various challenging circumstances, London personified the very virtues he wrote about. His early struggles—working in a cannery, his journey as a self-educated writer, and his adventures as a gold prospector—demonstrated that success is rarely an instantaneous achievement. Instead, it is often the result of sustained effort and resilience. These personal experiences provide a lens through which readers can appreciate the deeper layers of his characters' journeys.

Furthermore, London's essays and philosophical writings, such as "The Soul of Man Under Socialism," delve into the idea that persistence is not merely about individual struggle but also about societal progress. He advocates for social change and the importance of enduring the hardships that accompany the fight for a just society. Here, patience plays a crucial role not just for individuals, but for humanity as a whole, underscoring his belief in the inevitability of progress through persistent effort.

Here's a breakdown of how these ideas manifest in his works:

- **Enduring Hardship:** In many of London's stories, characters face immense physical and emotional challenges. Patience is crucial for enduring starvation, extreme weather, and constant danger. Think of Buck in **The Call of the Wild**. His initial struggle to adapt to his new life in the Klondike demands patience as he learns to hunt, fight, and navigate the harsh environment.
- **Learning New Skills:** London's protagonists often need to learn new skills to survive. This requires patience in mastering the intricacies of dog sledding, gold mining, or even social interaction in unfamiliar settings. The process of learning and adapting is often depicted as slow and painstaking.
- **Waiting for Opportunity:** In stories like **To Build a Fire**, the protagonist lacks patience, which contributes to his demise. Had he exercised more patience in assessing the risks of traveling alone in extreme cold and in building a proper fire, the outcome might have been different. Patience can also mean waiting for the right moment to act or seize an opportunity.
- **Overcoming Obstacles:** London's characters rarely give up easily. Persistence is often the driving force behind their ability to overcome obstacles, whether they are natural disasters, ruthless adversaries, or their own limitations. Buck's persistence in **The Call of the Wild** allows him to rise to the top of the dog pack and eventually embrace his primal instincts.
- **Achieving Goals:** Whether it's finding gold, achieving social status, or simply surviving, persistence is essential for reaching goals in London's narratives. The characters who succeed are those who are willing to work tirelessly and relentlessly, even in the face of setbacks. Martin Eden's dogged pursuit of literary recognition is a testament to this.
- **Maintaining Hope:** In the darkest of circumstances, persistence can be fueled by hope. Even when faced with seemingly insurmountable odds, London's characters often cling to a belief in their ability to overcome adversity. This hope, combined with unwavering effort, can be a powerful force.

- Blind Persistence vs. Calculated Action: London doesn't always portray persistence as inherently good. Sometimes, blind persistence without careful planning or adaptability can lead to disaster. **To Build a Fire** is again a prime example - the man stubbornly continues on his journey despite clear signs of danger, leading to his death.
- The Role of Instinct: While London champions persistence, he also acknowledges the importance of instinct and intuition. Sometimes, it's necessary to abandon a course of action and adapt to changing circumstances. Buck learns to balance his persistence with his primal instincts for survival.
- The Limits of Endurance: London also explores the limits of human and animal endurance. While characters may be persistent, there's often a point where the body and mind can no longer withstand the strain. This adds a layer of realism and tragedy to his stories.
- The Social Context: London's portrayal of patience and persistence is often influenced by his socialist views. He admires the working class's ability to endure hardship and their persistent struggle for better lives.
- The Call of the Wild: Buck's transformation from a pampered pet to a wild animal requires immense patience and persistence. He must learn to adapt to a new environment, master new skills, and endure physical hardship.

London's works are one of the most translated American writers in other languages. From this, he is also considered the founder of the genre, which later became known as science fiction. Jack London often explores themes of patience and perseverance in his works. These ideas become central to his short stories and novels, where the characters face the harsh conditions of nature and the challenges of life.

1. Patience: In works such as "Heart of Darkness" and "Call of the Ancestors," characters learn to endure adversity and wait for the right moment to act. Patience becomes a key element of survival.

2. Perseverance: In *Martin Eden*, the main character shows perseverance in striving for self-improvement and recognition. His struggle for success illustrates the importance of perseverance and self-belief.

In conclusion, the ideas of patience and persistence are central to Jack London's oeuvre. His characters navigate the complex interplay between these qualities and their personal growth, portraying the reality that life's challenges require both enduring patience and unwavering persistence. Through his compelling storytelling, London encourages readers to embrace these virtues, not only as survival tools but as essential components of the human experience. In our own lives, reflecting on these themes can inspire us to remain steadfast in pursuit of our goals, no matter how daunting the journey may seem.

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