

For this is the journey that
men make: To Find Themselves

If they fail in this, it doesn't matter much what else they find: money, position, fame, many loves, revenge – all of little consequence, and when the tickets are collected at the end of the ride, they are tossed into a bin marked FAILURE.

But if a man happens to find himself – if he knows what he can be depended upon to do, the limits of his courage, the position from which he'll no longer retreat, the degree to which he can surrender his inner life to some woman, the secret reservoirs of his determination, the extent of his dedication, the depth of his feeling for beauty, his honest and unpostured goals – then he has found a mansion which he can inhabit with dignity all the days of his life.

– James Michener