

The Scab

by: Jack London (1876 - 1916)

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a scab.

A scab is a two-legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he (or she, ed.) carries a tumor of rotten principles..

When a scab comes down the street, men (and women, ed.) turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him (or her, ed.) out.

No man (or woman) has a right to scab so long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in, or a rope long enough to hang his body with. Judas was a gentleman compared with a scab. For betraying his master, he had character enough to hang himself. A scab has not.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, Judas sold his Savior for thirty pieces of silver. Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British Army. The scab sell his (or her, ed.) birthright, country, his wife (or her husband, ed.), his (or her, ed.) children and his (or her, ed.) fellowmen (or fellow women, ed.) for an unfulfilled promise from his (or her, ed.) employer.

Esau was a traitor to himself; Judas was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his (or her, ed.) country; a scab is a traitor to his (or her, ed.) God, his (or her, ed.) country, his (or her, ed.) family, and his (or her, ed.) class.