**Danegeld by Rudyard Kipling**

It is always a temptation to an armed and agile nation,  
To call upon a neighbour and to say:  
“We invaded you last night – we are quite prepared to fight,   
Unless you pay us cash to go away.”

And that is called asking for Danegeld,  
And the people who ask it explain,  
That you’ve only got to pay ‘em the Danegeld,  
And then you’ll ger rid of the Dane!

It is always a temptation for a rich and lazy nation,   
To puff and look important and to say:  
“Though we know we should defeat you, we have not the time,  
We will therefore pay to cash to go away.”

It is wrong to put temptation in the path of any nation,   
For fear they should succumb and go astray,  
So when you are requested to pay up or be molested,   
You will find it better policy to say:

“We never pay anyone Danegeld,  
No matter how trifling the cost,   
For the end of that game is oppression and shame,  
And the nation that pays it has lost!”