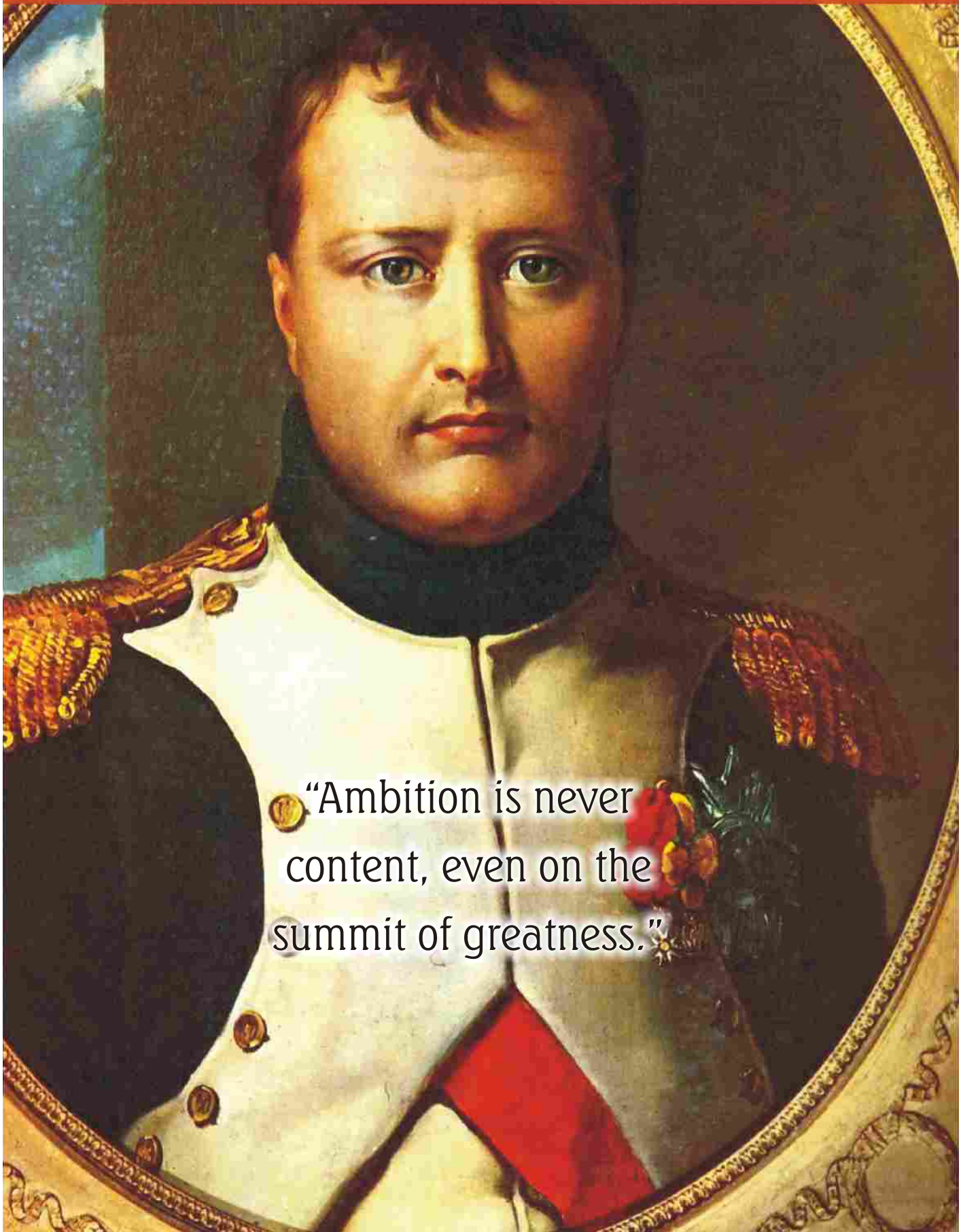


**LARGER<sup>THAN</sup>LIFE**  
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS

*Napoleon Bonaparte*  
(1769 - 1821)



“Ambition is never content, even on the summit of greatness.”

**Introduction:**

Napoleon Bonaparte rose from obscurity to become **Napoleon I, Emperor of France and became one of the greatest military commanders in history.** Napoleon's army crushed one enemy after another until he seemed invincible. For 20 years, many European nations fought against him. He conquered much of Europe. He is both a **historical figure** and a **legend.**

**Birth And Early Life:**

Napoleon Bonaparte was born on **15 August 1769** in Corsica into a gentry's family. Educated at military school, he was rapidly promoted and in **1796**, was made **commander of the French army** in Italy, where he forced Austria and its allies to make peace. In 1798, Napoleon conquered Ottoman-ruled Egypt in an attempt to strike at British trade routes with India. He was stranded when the British at the **Battle of the Nile** destroyed his fleet.

**Milestones:**

**1793:** Played an instrumental role in the French defeat of the British at Toulon, for which he was promoted to the rank of **Brigadier General.**

**1799:** Overthrew the French government and became first consul of a

provisional government.

**1804:** Established France as an empire with himself as the Emperor.

**1805:** Led French troops to victory over the Austrian and Russian armies at Austerlitz (now Slavkov, Czech Republic)

**1808:** Invaded Spain and proclaimed his brother Joseph the King, touching off the six-year-long Peninsular War.

**1812:** Invaded Russia, but was forced to retreat after losing more than four-fifths of his army.

**1814:** Was forced to abdicate unconditionally after a coalition of European countries captured Paris; was **exiled to the Island of Elba.**

**1815:** Returned to Paris after escaping from Elba, and again declared himself **the Emperor.**

**1815:** Was defeated during the final **Battle at Waterloo.**

**1815:** Abdicated a second time and was **exiled to the Island of Saint Helena.**

## *Did You Know?*

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- Napoleon was actually **granted sovereignty** over the Island of Elba during his first exile.
- A brilliant military commander, Napoleon repeatedly defeated military forces superior in size to his own.
- Napoleon maintained many of the **Egalitarian principles** of the French Revolution, including Equality before the law and freedom of religion.
- Napoleon created French satellite kingdoms in Holland, Italy, Germany, and Spain, and placed his brothers and other relatives on their thrones.
- The army assembled by Napoleon in 1812 was the largest yet seen in Europe.
- Though tradition called for the Pope to crown the Emperor, Napoleon took the crown from Pope Pius VII's hands and placed it on his own head.

## *Quotes By Napoleon Bonaparte*

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He who fears being conquered is certain of defeat.



Better not to have been born than to live without glory.



**Impossible** is a word to be found only in the **dictionary of fools**.



If you want a thing done well, **do it yourself**.



The truest wisdom is a **resolute determination**.