

Chapter XXVI: Zenobia and Coverdale
The Blithedale Romance

Zenobia speaks of the meaning of her own story by suggesting, "A moral? Why, this - that, in the battlefield of life, the downright stroke, that would fall only on a man's steel head-piece, is sure to light on a woman's heart, over which she wears no breastplate, and whose wisdom it is, therefore, to keep out of the conflict."

How does this statement fit into the character of Zenobia? Why do you think she argues for this as the moral for her own story? Write an essay to explain the significance and meaning of this statement in regards to the overall characterization of Zenobia.