

～たる

in the capacity of (literary)

Romaji: taru

～たる is a classical form of である that survives as a noun modifier: “being”, “in the capacity of”. 教師たる者は、生徒の模範であるべきだ is “One who is a teacher should be a model for the students.” It links one noun to another — most often 者, もの or 人 — and it invokes the duties that come with the role rather than simply naming it. Stiff, formal and a little grand: the language of speeches, mission statements, and characters who take themselves very seriously.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Noun + たる + 者 / もの / 人

医師たる者、患者を第一に考えるべきだ。 — A doctor should put the patient first.

Almost always followed by an obligation

リーダーたる者は、責任を取らなければならない。 — One who leads must take responsibility.

Fossilised adjectives: 堂々たる ・ 確固たる ・ 錚々たる

確固たる証拠がある。 — There is firm evidence.

例文 EXAMPLES

① 教師たる者、生徒の模範であるべきだ。
One who is a teacher should be an example to the students.

② リーダーたる者は、責任を取らなければならない。
One who leads must take responsibility.

③ 確固たる証拠が見つかった。
Firm evidence was found.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ It carries an unspoken “and therefore has duties”. 学生たる者 is not merely “a student” but “a student, with everything that entails”.
- ▶ The ～たる者 frame is nearly always completed by べき, なければならない or an imperative. A ～たる者 sentence that makes no demand sounds unfinished.
- ▶ A whole set of set-phrase adjectives are frozen ～たる forms — 堂々たる態度, 確固たる決意, 錚々たるメンバー. Learn those as vocabulary, not as grammar you generate.
- ▶ It is not the たる of ～に足る (“worthy of”), which comes from a different verb entirely.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Write one solemn line of advice for a profession you admire, using ～たる者は followed by べきだ. Read it aloud — the ceremony in it is the whole point of the pattern.