



Our Sacred Honor: The Stories, Letters, Songs, Poems, Speeches, and Hymns that Gave Birth to Our Nation

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The author of "The Book of Virtues" returns with inspirational essays from our founding fathers. Featuring the actual writings of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and more, this work also contains William Bennett's interpretation of the "myths" for which these men have become known as moral exemplars. From piety, justice, and industry, to patriotism, humility, and courage, "Sacred Honor" reminds listeners why we hold America's founders in such high regard. Simultaneous hardcover release from Simon & Schuster. National ads. 5-city author tour. (Nonfiction)

Our Sacred Honor: The Stories, Letters, Songs, Poems, Speeches, and Hymns that Gave Birth to Our Nation Details

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Vicki says

Anyone who refers to the founders as "Deists" has not read any of their writings. They did indeed believe that God was guiding them in what they were doing. They deist line may be what we were taught in school, but I recommend educating yourself further if you swallowed it hook, line and sinker.

Brandon Colligan says

"Our Sacred Honor" by William J. Bennet is a compilation of writings, speeches and songs by the founding fathers along with other key figures in American history. This largely conservative book is referenced as a "moral guide" during troubled times. The book has a common message of sticking to the roots of American fundamentalism.

There is not a single main character in this book but is rather a collection of pieces from a numerous amount of famous Americans such as John Adams and Ralph Waldo Emerson. In these pieces, these characters describe the rights of all human being such a liberty and justice. In a letter written by James Madison to his wife Dolly Madson, James describes the importance of morals and freedom and how they are the key to prosperity in the newly founded nation. Writings written also worship morals such as virtue to be the key to a successful nation.

The time period varies. The book is meant for a modern audience to take fundamental ideals from pieces of writings from the 18th and 19th century.

William J. Bennett's theme is simple in some sense. The weakness of our nation is the lack of discipline and morality that the fundamental code of the United States stands for. Bennett's obvious conservative approach seems to be outdated in the 21st century but has good points when it comes to the morality of every day American citizens.

I would recommend this to college students or adult who is interested in fundamental American ideals. Having an open mind is key to reading this, due to the bias nature of the book.

Kelly says

Yes, I have read it before (I reread it every couple of years).

What have I learned?

That the current crop of federal politicians are not worthy to tie the shoe laces of the original crop who fought and sacrificed to establish our country.

Does that sound cynical? I suppose it does. It's not my nature. I will only say that the direction our nation is now heading is diametrically opposed to the vision of our founding fathers.

Ken says

I wish I had read this book 40 years ago. Of course, it wasn't possible to read then. Wanting that, I wish I'd read Benjamin Franklin's rules for "constancy". How much more focused and directed might I have been with my life?

I am gratified, yet sad, after reading this book. How far we have fallen. How little understanding we have of the minds of the men who founded this nation. How little desire there seems to be to preserve and pass that knowledge through the generations.

I believe the Founders would weep with distress if they could view the results of "the experiment" now in 2012. Getting the foundations rebuilt would take nearly the heroic effort that the founding took. I am not sure we have the will and backbone to do i.

This book made me homesick for an America I've only seen in part.

Teresa says

I have always been a huge fan of the Founding Fathers and an American History buff. I love my country and the tenet it was founded on. This book is such a great detailed window into the minds and hearts of the men (and women!) who were responsible for the formation of our great nation. I found it to be profound and inspiring. I have read a million times over.

Angela says

This is a compilation of many letters and writings from our Founding Fathers. There is much to learn about these men and women, as far as their character goes, as well as the little known, but significant factual information during that time. It is a great coffee table or 'biffy' book, as most of the writings are just a page or two.

Anna says

haven't read all of the sections, but these people believe in absolute morality. right and wrong were not moving targets, but clear cut. these authors wrote to their children, and expected than to live accordingly.

Sheila says

Every parent should have this book in their home. The schools are not teaching History as they should. This is a must read for every family.

Renee says

At a critical time of our liberties being taken away by England, a generation stood up for truth, beyond all costs. Today, I am apart of a generation that is in great moral decline, yet we stand in silence under tolerance and relativism. Will my generation stand up for truth, so that peace and justice can reign for the future? Or will our peace and freedom be striped away slowly.

Stephen says

Our Sacred Honor by William J. Bennett collects the thoughts and advice of the 'founding founders' on such themes as patriotism, frugality, industry, civility, friendship, romance, and faith, adding his own commentary as introductions to each section. It is something of a patriotic canon in that it contains excerpts from not only the Declaration of Independence, but works like the Ballad of Paul Revere and the famed story about Washington cutting down a tree with his hatchet. The collection is weakest here: though Bennett lightly acknowledges that these accounts are not true to fact, they're included more for the way they make him feel, which is patriotic. What makes up for this is the wealth of material taken from the letters of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and company. (These three and Franklin provide most of the material.) The section on piety seems superfluous given how abundant references to providence are throughout the text, but the religious sentiments of these four are a world apart from those of the current strain of politicians who try to enlist God as a running-mate. I found the collection informative, though I suppose any collection of letters from Adams and Jefferson would be superb. In short,, this collection offers a slightly naïve appreciation of the founders' thoughts, but still enjoyable.

Julie says

Thanks, Jared, for this book! I love it. I love the letters and the poems and insights into the forefathers' lives. I love Bennett's reverence for those who paved the way.

Becky says

Humbling, profound, and, I'll admit, a little depressing. Why depressing? Because to read the hopes of our founders, the absolute laser focus they employed in crafting this new country, the seriousness with which they took their duties, and their expectations that the citizens of America would continue this great experiment in the same spirit, is to realize how much we've let them down. American schools and colleges had one purpose at their inception: to teach young people their rights and responsibilities as citizens and developed adults. Are either of these things taught now? Voting was (IS!) a privilege; serving in government was (SHOULD BE!) just that: SERVICE. Not a bother or a way to get rich or achieve lifetime power.

"Well Doctor, what have you given us?" a woman asked Benjamin Franklin after the crafting of the Constitution, to which he famously responded, "A republic, if you can keep it." To keep it implied a continuing action, that there was work yet to be done. I fear we've lost the truest parts of our republic because of our apathy and lazy selfishness. (Forgive me my gloom; I voted for state issues yesterday and was dismayed to hear one woman, annoyed by how long it was taking her son to vote, snap at him, "Just pick a name you like. That's what I do. I don't know who any of them are." Having just read how the revolutionaries

who fought to bring about our freedom walked through the snow, leaving blood trails because they had no shoes, that comment gutted me.)

I could quote the entire book, but I will just leave two here. First, Thomas Jefferson, in his first Inaugural Address, lays out what this government was meant to be:

"Still one thing more, fellow-citizens--a wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities."

Sigh. A wise, frugal, limited government that has a specific role and stays in that role . . .

And last, Noah Webster (of Webster's dictionary fame), tells us the following about choosing our leaders. (I don't see "just a pick a name you like" anywhere, astonishingly enough.)

"When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule with the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty; if the citizens neglect their duty, and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made, not for the public good, so much as for the selfish or local purposes; corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded. If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws. Intriguing men can never be safely trusted."

Bad government = our fault. Will we ever learn? Will our republic (the Founders never, ever called it a "democracy" because it's NOT a democracy) survive? And what will we say to the Founders when we see them again in heaven? I shudder to think.

Tamhack says

"Featuring the wisdom of Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, Washington, Hamilton, and others, an anthology of the words and accomplishments of America's founders offers inspirational lessons in courage, civility, honesty, piety, and other important virtues and values. 250,000 first printing"
<https://www.amazon.com/Our-Sacred-Hon...>

It is a great reference book to keep on your self and re-read.

I never knew that Abigail Adams said:

p33 "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Trust in him at all times, ye people pour out your hearts before him. God is a refuge for us....

I love the relationship between Abigail and John Adams. They were a true companions and mates. They even had such a relationship that they catalogued each other's faults (p113-p115).

P74-77; John Paul Jones poem "I Have Not Yet Begun to Fight: poem after the victory of September 23, 1779.

P87- James Madison, Nov. 19, 1971

"Emigrations may augment the population of the country permitting them....

Freedome of immigration is due to the general interests of humanity."

p117-119. Benjamin Rush's thoughts of marriage.

p126-127 Samuel Adams thoughts of marriage.

P145-149 Thomas Jefferson

"Humans are not merely socials, like bees ro wolves, but political... political in the original meaning of the word.

p152-155 George Washington's rules of civility.

The friendship of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. p 165

Friendship of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison p 189 to 193

p282 to 283 George Washington's council to son George Washington Custis

pg 303, 396-399 Noah Webster, "Advice to the Young, " 1834

p 313-315 Benjamin Rush's thoughts on justice.....

p347-348 Thomas Jefferson's "The Word's Best hope"

Myron says

Thomas Jefferson is quoted "Adore God, murmur not at the ways of Providence." The book is packed with examples of the Founding Fathers' trust in the Creator.

Erika says

gift from daddy
