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Our Nation by Carl E Beyer

Excerpt from George Washington First Inaugural Speech

“Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that *Almighty Being* who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose *providential aids* can supply every human defect, that *His benediction* may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a Government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the *Great Author* of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the *Invisible Hand* which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of *providential agency*; and in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities from which the event has resulted can not be compared with the means by which most governments have been established without some return of *pious gratitude*, along with an humble anticipation of the *future blessings* which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me, I trust, in thinking that there are none under the influence of which the proceedings of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence.”

With the inauguration of our new president I thought it may be a good time to do a little history review. So often, in the past century, the inauguration speeches seem to have replace the “Invisible Hand” with the United States. From reviewing the speeches that can all be found at <http://www.bartleby.com/124/> it is more common in recent history to either take credit or blame the United States for events both locally and around the world.

Somewhere in our recent comfortable age the thought of being “God Fearing people” has lost its meaning. Our first president did not give a speech taking credit for all the deeds that as the General of the Army he had accomplish. No, he gave credit where credit was due. George Washington recognized the higher power that was the “Invisible Hand” behind the events. He knew the only power he truly possesses was the power to be a servant of God in all his duties. George Washington was not an idle by-stander waiting for God to deliver what he thought he deserved.

In that one paragraph God is referred to in eight different ways: Almighty Being, Providential Aids, His Benediction, Great Author, Invisible Hand, Providential Agency, Pious Gratitude, and Future Blessings. Have we lost the beauty of these words in our present lives? This wasn’t a speech about separating Church and State. No, it was clearly a speech relating to the very intertwining of the United States and God.

Pray for our nation’s leaders that they may return to our Founding Fathers simple belief that they were guided by an “Invisible Hand”. Now go forth and pray that the Will of God is to be done.