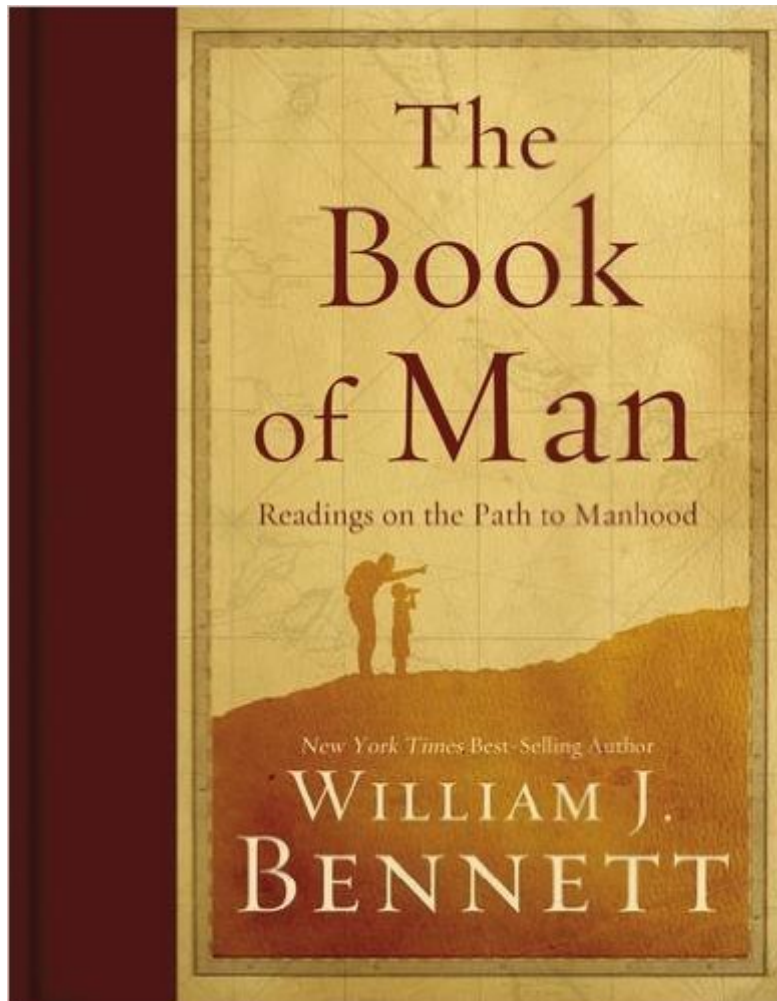


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# The Book Of Man: Readings On The Path To Manhood



## Synopsis

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAN Raising up men has never been easy, but today it seems particularly tough. The young and old need heroes to embody the eternal qualities of manhood: honor, duty, valor, and integrity. In *The Book of Man*, William J. Bennett points the way, offering a positive, encouraging, uplifting, realizable idea of manhood, redolent of history and human nature, and practical for contemporary life. Using profiles, stories, letters, poems, essays, historical vignettes, and myths to bring his subject to life, *The Book of Man* defines what a man should be, how he should live, and to what he should aspire in several key areas of life: war, work, leisure, and more. "Whether we take up the sword, the plow, the ball, the gavel, our children, or our Bibles," says Bennett, "we must always do it like the men we are called to be." *The Book of Man* shows how.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dr. William J. Bennett's *Book of Virtues* is a favorite in our house. At dinner time, bath time, or bed time, the children ask me to read a story or poem from "the big book," as they call it. And I'm always willing to; Bennett's *Book of Virtues* has as much to offer the parents as it does the children. I expected the *Book of Man* to be like the *Book of Virtues*, only for little boys. But the readings are more for older boys or men. Still, the subtitle, "Readings on the Path to Manhood," is appropriate. After all, what man doesn't continue on the path to manhood? Bennett asks: "What does it mean to be a man today?...While the plot, actors, and scenes are constantly changing, the virtues, characteristics, and challenges of manhood remain the same today as thousands of years ago." On

how to be a man, Bennett says, "More can and should be said. That is what I offer here. There are examples worthy of emulation, stories worth knowing, lives worth studying and remembering, and counsel worth hearing..." Bennett's quotes span the time from Pericles to Colin Powell, while the characters range from Robert Murray M'Cheyne to Jimmy Carter. Stories about men like Theodore Roosevelt or Martin Luther King Jr. are always inspiring, and Bennett gives us plenty. But equally inspiring are the stories of men like Terry Toussaint, Fort Valley, Georgia's "proud sanitation worker." Toussaint was inspired by Martin Luther King's speech to a crowd of street sweepers in Memphis, TN: "If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures....sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper..."

A lot of us have figured out that there is a lack of male leadership in our culture these days. It's easy to lament this fact but more difficult to do something about it. William Bennett, the compiler of the excellent Book of Virtues, has done something about the need for real men in our culture. He's compiled a book, The Book of Man, that offers a great selection of short writings that act as a model for virtuous manhood. I've been talking to my three sons about what it means to be a Christian man, and now that I have The Book of Man in hand I have my choice of stories, profiles, and speeches to illustrate what I'm trying to teach them. Bennett offers an excellent (but too brief) introduction and organizes his selections around 6 areas of masculine endeavor: man at war; man at work; man in play, sports, and leisure; man in the polis; man with women and children; and man in prayer and reflection. I'm especially glad to see the last two sections because our culture has some notion of men in the first four categories but not enough for men with their families and men with their God. Bennett has done a good job of selecting a wide variety of writings related to manhood - enough to offer something for everyone. I especially like this because there's not only one vocation to which men are called, and The Book of Man offers a vision for men in six different spheres. The book is aimed at adult readers, but there is a lot that young men and older boys could benefit from, especially if they read the selections together with their father. The Book of Man upholds a traditional, moral and religious view of man, even though many of the selections are from men who are not specifically Christian or even religious.

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