

## Faith and Freedom

This was the motto of Ginn and Company - a publisher responsible for many of the textbooks used when I was in my parochial grade school. This memory comes back to me as I sit in oh-so-secular Western Europe trying to come to grips with a great American contradiction: the Patriots' Day attack in Boston was perpetrated by religious fanatics who misused the freedoms provided by an open society. It is indeed difficult to reconcile faith and freedom, and our constitution requires us to do a tightrope walk if we hope to assure that both are taken into consideration.

As I try to do just that, I am reminded of Paul Harvey's daily radio blurbs, where he claimed to provide "the rest of the story". Allow me to do the same, using seldom-heard lyrics to patriotic songs – of course, showing how God and His Kingdom need to be fundamental to our national life. May that God show us how to embrace the best of the virtues espoused by our founders, and upon which the republic is founded! Isn't that, after all, what the Fourth of July is all about?

My country's fair, it is rich and blessed,  
it denies no man his creed;  
it offers rest to the sore oppressed  
with a heart for the whole world's need.

-“Sing on” Gustav Klemm

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,  
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast,  
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay,  
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.  
Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,  
Lead us from night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,  
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

-“National Hymn”, Daniel C. Roberts, vv. 2, 4.

...America! America!  
God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control,  
Thy liberty in law!  
...America! America!  
May God thy gold refine  
Till all success be nobleness  
And every gain divine!  
O beautiful for patriot dream  
That sees beyond the years  
Thine alabaster cities gleam  
Undimmed by human tears!...

-“America the Beautiful” Katharine Lee Bates, vv. 2,3,4.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.  
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,  
While God is marching on.

-“Battle Hymn of the Republic”, Julia Ward Howe, v. 5.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation.  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."

-« The Star-Spangled Banner »-Francis Scott Key, v. 4.

Our fathers' God to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing.  
Long may our land be bright,  
With freedom's holy light,  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God our King.

-“America”, Samuel Francis Smith, v. 4.

God, bless America...

-Irving Berlin, sung by Kate Smith

America, bless God!

-Seen on a bumper sticker.