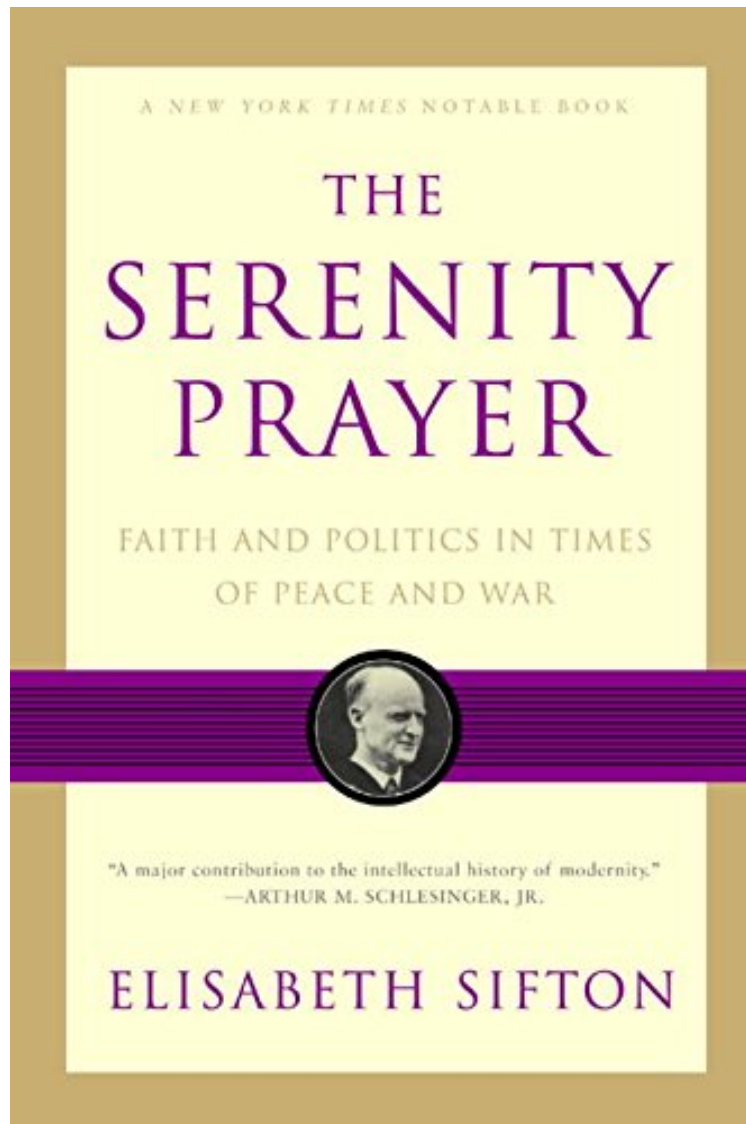


(Read ebook) The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War

The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War

Elisabeth Sifton

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#226322 in Books Elisabeth Sifton 2005-01-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x 1.00 x 5.50l, .81
#File Name: 0393326624368 pagesThe Serenity Prayer Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War | File
size: 23.Mb

Elisabeth Sifton : The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Serenity Prayer: Faith and Politics in Times of Peace and War:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I am happily making my way through what many people think is ...By Edward FilistowiczHaven't finished it yet, but it was as expected. I wanted to know more about the specific time

when the prayer was written. I am happily making my way through what many people think is boring! And why? Because it seems as though being a child in Heath MA in the summer, was very similar to being a child in my own hometown...Some of the best parts are about all the different Protestant "sects" I always wondered what the differences were and why they came to be. The author also explains these things, so that she can describe all of the other visitors and preachers on Sundays.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Serenity Prayer.By willard machenMostly about her fathers politics and views on war and social justice, but enough on the Serenity Prayer to be worthwhile.A very interesting and comprehensive book about Reinhold Niebuhr. Get it for your library!(Spoiler: His prayer is not the same as the AA prayer!!)0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Historyof the Prayer is interestingBy Rodney P. DempseyI never knew the background of the times surrounding when the Serenity Prayer was written, or anything about the author of the prayer or his colleagues.

A landmark work on the liberal ideals of the progressive American tradition, reaffirming their relevance for today: "A major contribution to the intellectual history of modernity."Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. In 1943, the renowned theologian Reinhold Niebuhr wrote a prayer for a church service in a New England village. Its appeal for grace, courage, and wisdom soon became famous the world over. Here, Elisabeth Sifton, Niebuhr's daughter, reclaims the true history of the Serenity Prayer and, in a poignant narrative, tells of efforts made by the brave men and women who, like Niebuhr, devoted their lives to the causes of social justice, racial equality, and religious freedom in a world spiraling into and out of economic depression and war. Recalling her father's efforts to warn the clergy of the dangers of fascism, and of America's own social and spiritual crises, Sifton reminds us of what is possible when liberal, open-minded leadersnot zealous fundamentalists or hawkish plutocratsshape the conscience of the nation. The Serenity Prayer is itself a meditation on the power of prayer in morally compromised, unstable times. A New York Times Notable Book. "Crossing all religious boundaries, the Serenity Prayer may be the best-loved prayer in America. Why? Elisabeth Sifton gives the best answer by remembering a life lived in fidelity to the prayer, the life of her father, the prayer's author, Reinhold Niebuhr. Candidly observed, brimful of energy and wit, this memoir becomes by its end a moving meditation on the dark heart of the twentieth century."Jack Miles, author of Christ: A Crisis in the Life of God "Elisabeth Sifton's The Serenity Prayer is in part a memoir of her father, Reinhold Niebuhr, in part a meditation on the dilemmas of religious faith in the contemporary world. Beautifully written, filled with perceptive insights and wry humor, it is a major contribution to the intellectual history of modernity."Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. The Serenity Prayer is an adventure in applied theology, family history, and a nation's search for meaning. Elisabeth Sifton has written a deeply engaging work of memory and imagination; a broadside critique of politics and religion worthy of the name Niebuhr; a humane meditation on prayer; memoir at its best; nothing less than literature."James Carroll "It is forbidden to look back with envy upon Reinhold Niebuhr and the other religious intellectuals brought back to life so vividly in Elisabeth Sifton's important book, because the world in which they lived was truly dark. But they were, truly, children of light. In their intrepid, learned, and humane minds, ideas of God mingled naturally with ideas of liberalism: so how can one not read The Serenity Prayer without a tremor of nostalgia? Here are men and women praying as intelligently as they were thinking and thinking as intensely as they were praying. Sifton's steadfast and affecting memoir leaves me not just admiring her father, it leaves me also loving him."Leon Wieselthier "[An] ebullient and shrewd meditation on faith and social action....A peaceable state of mind simply accompanies the reader as he ends this effortlessly elegant, uniformly sensible paean to the human faith that Sifton inherited."Carlin Romano, Philadelphia Inquirer "A timely reminder of the wealth and diversity of the American religious tradition."Walter Russell Mead, Foreign Affairs 12 illustrations

From Publishers WeeklyTheologian Reinhold Niebuhr's famous prayer ("God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other") has, Sifton notes, the distinction of being the world's most misattributed text. In a sometimes frustrating, sometimes illuminating and sometimes tedious memoir, Niebuhr's daughter-an eminent book editor and currently senior vice-president of Farrar, Straus Giroux- sets the prayer in the context of her father's life and work. She traces the prayer's birth to its origins during summer services in a New England village church in 1943. The prayer clearly reveals Niebuhr's Christian realism, which asserts that every human effort is tainted with sin or the inevitable human failure to be perfect. Drawing on her memories of her father and her readings of his books, letters, sermons and prayers, Sifton chronicles her father's development as a theologian who courageously challenged the facile liberalism of American churches, the complicity of German churches with the Nazis and the simplistic solutions of Marxism and socialism. Sifton reminisces about many of the major political, theological, and intellectual figures who were a part of her upbringing (Paul Tillich, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, W.H. Auden, Felix Frankfurter, R.H. Tawney, Isaiah Berlin) and with whom her father moved shoulder to shoulder in the world. Despite some unfocused writing as she moves from personal recollection to theological reflection, Sifton offers an intimate portrait of growing up with one of America's most important theologians and demonstrates the timelessness of Niebuhr's struggle for justice and mercy in the world. Photos. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.From The New YorkerThe Christian writer and activist

Reinhold Niebuhr has influenced millions with his Serenity Prayer, which was composed in the depths of the Second World War, circulated to the troops, and, in edited form, adopted as the mantra for Alcoholics Anonymous. Sifton, Niebuhr's daughter, sets out to correct misreadings of "Pa's" prayer and to bring to life the extraordinary intellectual community of friends (such as Paul Tillich, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Felix Frankfurter) who surrounded Niebuhr at Union Theological Seminary and at his summer home in Massachusetts. Sifton's account is not free of a certain Episcopalian hauteur (she itemizes the shortcomings of more uncouth Protestant denominations), but she gives her portrait of the time a resonance appropriate to our own. After Eisenhower's election in 1952, Niebuhr warns his daughter, "You've never lived under a Republican administration. You don't know how terrible this is going to be." Copyright 2005 The New Yorker From Booklist The daughter of the great Protestant cleric and intellectual Reinhold Niebuhr, Sifton explores the historical tensions surrounding her father's most lapidary and aphoristic devotional work: an oft-quoted 1943 prayer petitioning the deity for the grace to accept the unchangeable, the courage to change the unacceptable, and the wisdom to distinguish between the two. Sifton recounts the dramatic events surrounding the writing of this wartime prayer, detailing her family's intimate domestic responses to these events and the public debates over their implications--both of which shaped her father's thinking during this trying era. In particular, she describes her father's growing frustration with religious leaders who refused to join him in confronting the growing threat of fascist and totalitarian politics. Given the timeliness and vigor of Niebuhr's fight against complacent religious sentimentality, Sifton regards as deeply ironic that postwar writers misattributed his Serenity Prayer to an eighteenth-century German Pietist. Alloying passionate devotion with critical intelligence, Sifton gives a twentieth-century prayer compelling relevance for twenty-first-century challenges. Bryce Christensen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved