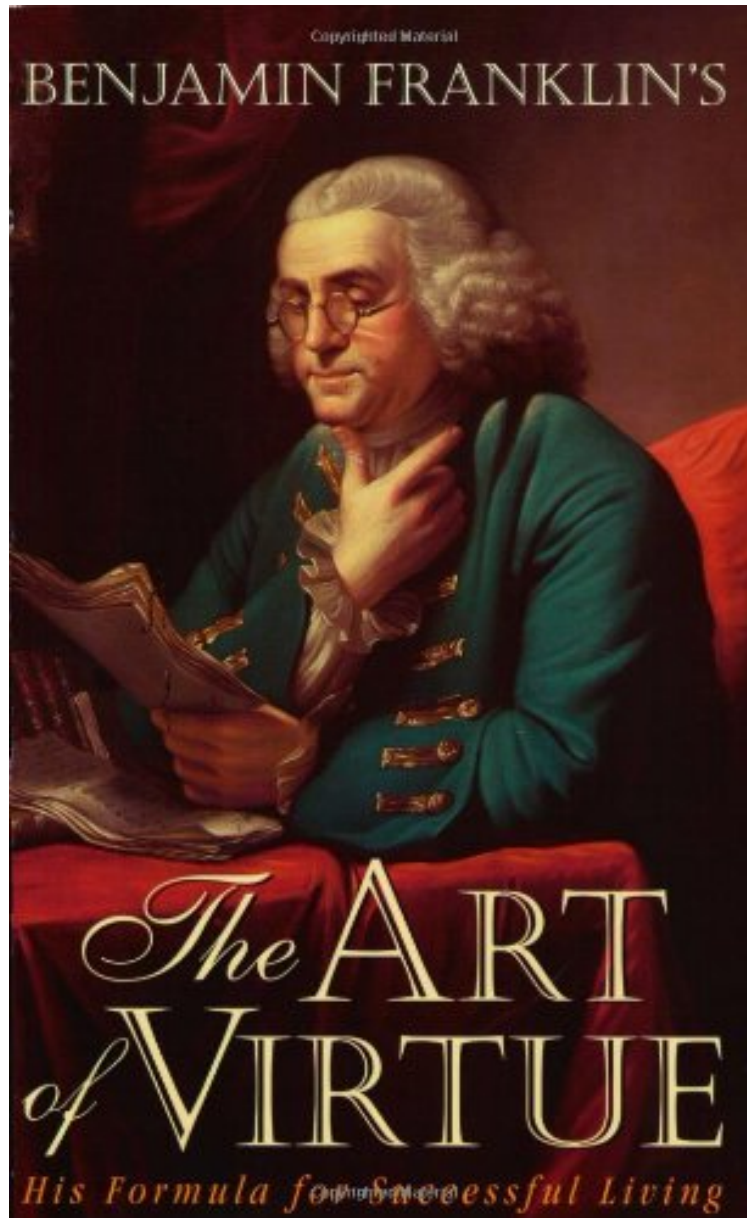


(Download) Benjamin Franklin's The Art of Virtue: His Formula for Successful Living

## Benjamin Franklin's The Art of Virtue: His Formula for Successful Living

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**Benjamin Franklin : Benjamin Franklin's The Art of Virtue: His Formula for Successful Living** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Benjamin Franklin's The Art of Virtue: His Formula for Successful Living:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful role model to learn from By Ev Nucci Franklin shares his philosophy, formula for success which is full of insights, humor, goal setting, personal achievements, human relations, morality and much more. His story begins, "It was about this time that I conceived the bold and arduous project of arriving at moral perfection. I wished to live without committing any fault at any time... I soon found I had undertaken a task of more difficulty than I had imagined..." He names his virtues and their precepts: 1. Temperance. Eat not to Dullness. Drink not to Elevation. 2. Silence. Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself. Avoid trifling Conversation. 3. Order. Let all your Things have their Places. Let each Part of your Business have its Time. 4. Resolution. Resolve to perform what you ought. Perform without fail what you resolve. 5. Frugality. Make no Expense but to do good to others or yourself: i.e. Waste nothing. 6. Industry. Lose no Time. Be always employ'd in something useful. Cut off all unnecessary Actions. 7. Sincerity. Use no hurtful Deceit. Think innocently and justly; and, if you speak, speak accordingly. 8. Justice. Wrong none, by doing Injuries or omitting the Benefits that are your Duty. 9. Moderation. Avoid Extremes. Forbear resenting Injuries so much as you think they deserve. 10. Cleanliness. Tolerate no Uncleanliness in Body, Clothes or Habitation. 11. Tranquillity. Be not disturbed at Trifles, or at Accidents common or unavoidable. 12. Chastity. Rarely use Venery but for Health or Offspring; Never to Dullness, Weakness, or the Injury of your own or another's Peace or Reputation. 13. Humility. Imitate Jesus and Socrates. One of our founding father's set the above as his precepts and goals. Any wonder why Benjamin Franklin is a leader for our children to emulate today? 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Timeless work By ae When you look at the cover and the preface, the book may appear to be written by Benjamin Franklin, but that is somewhat misleading. Sure, the essence of the book comes from the writings of B.F., but the editor of the book has also done a great job of putting a collection of writings by Franklin into an excellent structure. Twelve virtues are identified answering key questions about the source of happiness, how to attain it, and many other important aspects of life. Each virtue is supported by B.F.'s writings. I especially liked the summaries at the end of each chapter that would emphasize the essential points of the corresponding virtue. This is a very accessible book, and a great companion for anyone who thinks life should be more than pursuing selfish goals and satisfying petty pleasures. Perhaps, this work is more useful in understanding B.F.'s wisdom than his autobiography, which is another great classic. I was slightly confused as to why the book was presented to be merely a book by B.F., given that the editor has contributed quite a bit in terms of organization and explanations. Perhaps to improve the sales? In any event, this is a great work that, I bet, will improve the perspective of anyone who reads it actively. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good desk reference for self improvement By Andrew Cunningham I like to pick historical figures that I admire to use more or less as mentors. I figure if I admire what they did with their lives, their example or recipe for living may help me to grow toward the vision I have for myself. It's amazing how much you can tell that Dale Carnegie, M. Scott Peck, Stephen Covey etcetera had been influenced by the ideas and practiced Ben Franklin had practiced. All around good universal truism and practical guides for successful living.

Benjamin Franklin's *The Art of Virtue* consists of a collection of Franklin's writings organized around his timeless philosophy on such topics as: goal setting and personal achievement, obtaining wealth and preserving health, human relations and family living, religion and morality, aging and dying, and much, much more. Full of profound insights, delightful humor, quotable quotes, and plenty of common sense; *The Art of Virtue* provides wonderful reading for both young and old alike.

From *Library Journal* Franklin conceived of this book at the age of 26 but never actually got around to writing it. In 1986, editor George Rogers completed the task by gleaning Franklin's thoughts on the subject from his various writings. We could all use a little virtue these days, so libraries would do well to stock this volume. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Perhaps more than any other 18th century notable, Franklin grappled with the 'codes of behavior' as they applied to the individual's place in the universe--how one might reach his or her potential for a meaningful existence in a world of uncertainty...I highly recommend the *Art of Virtue* to anyone concerned with self-improvement, or simply curious about what made Franklin tick." -- Roy E. Goodman, Curator, American Philosophical Society In 1732, at the age of 26, Benjamin Franklin conceived the idea of writing a guide for living that he named "*The Art of Virtue*". Although he nurtured this idea of a book for the next fifty years, Franklin never completed the work before he died. 250 years later, George Rogers discovered a set of Franklin's writings in an old mansion in Tarrytown, New York. Inspired by what Franklin had to say, and believing his ideas to be of general benefit to all people, Rogers researched and organized Franklin's writings into the book Franklin had intended to write. The rather impressive result is Benjamin Franklin's *The Art Of Virtue*. This compendium of the famous wit and wisdom of Ben Franklin is as apt today as it was in the colonial era of our nation's founding. Benjamin Franklin's *The Art Of Virtue* is appropriate reading (and study) for all ages, in all conditions and walks of life. Benjamin Franklin's *The Art Of Virtue* is a yet another of Benjamin Franklin's many treasured legacies to the American people. --Midwest Book From the Publisher In 1732, at the age of 26, Benjamin Franklin first conceived the idea writing a book he wanted to title, *The Art of Virtue*. The book was to be based a method of self-improvement he had earlier developed

and felt had been quite helpful to him. Though Franklin never completed this work, he nurtured the idea for well over fifty years of his life. In 1860, Franklin wrote to a close friend, Lord Kames: I propose. . . a little work for the benefit of youth, to be called *The Art of Virtue*. From the title I think you will hardly conjecture what the nature of the book may be. I must therefore explain it a little. Many people lead bad lives that would gladly lead good lives, but do not know how to make the change. They have frequently resolved and endeavored it; but in vain, because their endeavors have not been properly conducted. . . . Most people have naturally some virtues, but none have naturally all the virtues. To acquire those that are wanting, and secure what we acquire, as well as what we have naturally, is as properly an art as painting, navigation, or architecture. If a man would become painter, navigator, or architect, it is not enough that he is advised to be one, that he is convinced by the arguments of his advisor that it would be for his advantage to be one, and that he resolves to be one, but he must also be taught the principles of the art, be shown all the methods of working, and how to acquire the habits of using properly all the instruments; and thus regularly and gradually he arrives, by practice, at some perfection in the art. . . . My *Art of Virtue* has also its instruments and teaches the manner of using them. . . . While writing his autobiography in 1785, Franklin commented on *The Art of Virtue* as follows, . . . .being fully persuaded of the utility and excellence of my method, and that it might be serviceable to people of all religions. . . .I purposed writing a little comment on each virtue, in which I should have shown the advantages of possessing it and the mischief's attending its opposite vice; and I should have called my book, *The Art of Virtue*. But it so happened that my intention of writing and publishing this comment was never fulfilled. . . .the necessary close attention to private business in the earlier part of my life, and public business since, have occasioned my postponing it. . . .[and] it has hitherto remained unfinished. Thanks to Mr. Rogers, *The Art of Virtue* which Dr. Franklin so long contemplated has now been masterfully completed. Providing marvelous insight into both his methods and his motives for self-improvement, the *Art of Virtue* is must reading for anyone serious about getting the most out of life.