

The American Puritans: Their Prose and Poetry



The American Puritans: Their Prose and Poetry

by Kyle Onstott

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled
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The Puritans were a group of English Protestants who sought to purify the Church of England from what they perceived as Catholic influences. They established a colony in Massachusetts in 1630, and their beliefs and values had a profound impact on American culture and literature.

The Puritans were known for their emphasis on hard work, thrift, and education. They also believed in the importance of religious freedom, and they played a key role in the development of American democracy.

The Puritan literary tradition is characterized by its plain style, its focus on religious themes, and its use of allegory and symbolism. The Puritans produced a wide range of literature, including sermons, histories, poems, and novels.

The Puritan Sermon

The Puritan sermon was a central part of Puritan religious life. Sermons were typically long and complex, and they often dealt with difficult theological topics. Puritan sermons were also known for their use of vivid imagery and emotional appeals.

One of the most famous Puritan sermons is "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" by Jonathan Edwards. Edwards preaches about the wrath of God and the need for salvation. The sermon is full of vivid images of hell and damnation and uses powerful emotional appeals to persuade listeners to repent of their sins.

Puritan History

The Puritans also wrote a number of histories. These histories were often written to justify the Puritan experiment in America and to provide a record of the colony's early years.

One of the most important Puritan histories is "The History of New England" by John Winthrop. Winthrop was the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and his history provides a firsthand account of the colony's founding and early years.

Puritan Poetry

The Puritans also wrote poetry. Puritan poetry was often religious in theme and used simple language and imagery. Puritan poets sought to express their faith and their love of God through their poetry.

One of the most famous Puritan poets is Anne Bradstreet. Bradstreet was one of the first American poets, and her work is known for its honesty,

passion, and beauty.

The American Puritans were a complex and fascinating people. Their beliefs and values had a profound impact on American culture and literature. The Puritan literary tradition is a rich and diverse one, and it continues to be studied and enjoyed by readers today.

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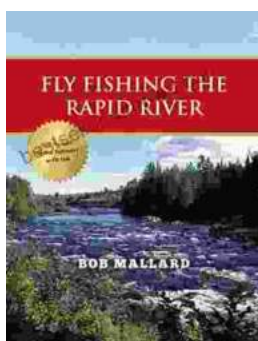


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