

# The Family Heritage Series

A weekly discussion of Americanist truths and traditions for those "heirs of all the ages" who will have to preserve that most important inheritance of all — freedom. Produced by the Movement To Restore Decency.



Volume II

Lesson Eighty-Six

## Free To Create

### LESSON IDEA

One of freedom's greatest benefits is that under it, man will be his most creative. Without freedom, on the other hand, creativity is stifled.

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THE MASTER Creator, who declared, "Let us make man in our own image," has given every individual the ability to create. Man the dreamer is also man the builder. And when man's imagination and abilities are given an opportunity to develop, this creative talent can bear more wonderful fruit than any orchard in the world. Thanks to this gift, every person has the ability to make some significant contribution that will benefit his family, his country, and perhaps the entire world.

The great sculptor Michelangelo translated living thoughts into enduring marble. Beethoven, though deaf, walked in the woods with God, and in his glorious and enduring music expressed the triumph of the human soul over adversity. Shakespeare dipped his pen so deep into the ink of human understanding that after four centuries his plays and poems still stimulate and delight succeeding generations. A group of courageous and inspired statesmen, after defeating the army of England, drafted the Constitution of the United States, and secured liberty for a new nation.

While not all of us will become famous writers, painters, musicians, or statesmen, all of us have been given some creative abilities. Do you think it is important to develop and use these abilities? Why?

[Let everyone answer.] Since we will be happiest and most productive when we are exercising these abilities, it is important to ask what conditions are necessary for us to be creative. What are some of the things you can think of that would encourage you to be creative? [Some factors to mention are necessity, ambition, opportunity, and encouragement.]

There are many factors that determine how creative someone will be. But certainly one of the most important is freedom. The greatest invention in the world will benefit no one, if the inventor is not permitted to build it or use it. The most beautiful music or the most stirring play will never inspire anyone, if it cannot be performed or read.

For more than 6,000 years, most people have lived in poverty and abject misery. In country after country, for century after century, only a handful of rulers even lived in homes that had windows and chimneys and floors. The vast multitudes of mankind have seldom enjoyed enough food to keep their stomachs filled, or enough clothes to keep their bodies warm. But now, after just a few generations, we in America take well-furnished homes and well-stocked refrigerators for granted. We regard telephones, washing machines, indoor plumbing, furnaces, and automobiles as necessities, while for most people on earth they are unimaginable luxuries.

The tremendous advances that have been made in America are just one illustration of how individual creativity can bring enormous benefits to everyone.

