

Inaugural Address of President John F. Kennedy

Washington, D.C. January 20, 1961

In the long history of the world,
only a few generations have been granted
the role of defending freedom
in its hour of maximum danger.

I do not shrink from this responsibility--
I welcome it.

I do not believe that any of us
would exchange places with any other people
or any other generation.

The energy, the faith, the devotion
which we bring to this endeavor
will light our country
and all who serve it--
and the glow from that fire
can truly light the world.

And so, my fellow Americans:
ask **not** what your country can do for you--
ask what **you** can do for your country.

My fellow citizens of the world:
ask not what America will do for you,
but what together we can do
for the freedom of man.