

PRA YERS AND MEDITATIONS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649678495

Prayers and Meditations by Samuel Johnson & William Gresley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SAMUEL JOHNSON & WILLIAM GRESLEY

**PRAYERS AND
MEDITATIONS**

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS,

COMPOSED BY

SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

WITH A PREFACE,

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM GRESLEY, M.A.

PREFERENDARY OF LICHFIELD.



LICHFIELD:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY T. G. LOMAX,

AT THE JOHNSON'S HEAD.

LONDON: SOLD BY JOSEPH MASTERS.

MDCCLX.

138. d. 288.

TO THE
INHABITANTS OF THE NATIVE CITY OF THE AUTHOR,
THIS EDITION OF HIS
Papers and Meditations
IS GRATEFULLY AND RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,
BY ONE WHO HAS LIVED
HALF A CENTURY AMONG THEM.

Lichfield,
January, 1860.



PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION
IN 1785.

THese posthumous Devotions of Dr. Johnson will be, no doubt, welcomed by the public with a distinction similar to that which has been already paid to his other Works.

During many years of his life, he stately observed certain days* with a religious solemnity; on which, and other occasions, it was his custom to compose suitable Prayers and Meditations; committing them to writing for his own use, and, as he as-

* Viz., New Year's Day; March 28, the day on which his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, died; Good Friday; Easter Day; and September the 18th, his own birth-day.

sured me, without any view to their publication. But being last Summer on a visit at Oxford to the Rev. Dr. Adams, Master of Pembroke College, and that gentleman urging him repeatedly to engage in some work of this kind, he then first conceived a design to revise these pious effusions, and bequeath them, with enlargements, to the use and benefit of others.

Infirmities, however, now growing fast upon him, he at length changed this design, and determined to give the Manuscripts, without revision, in charge to me, as I had long shared his intimacy, and was at this time his daily attendant. Accordingly, one morning, on my visiting him, by desire, at an early hour, he put these Papers into my hands, with instructions for committing them to the Press, and with a promise to prepare a sketch of his own life to accompany them. But the performance of this *promise* also was prevented, partly by his

hasty destruction of some private memoirs, which he afterwards lamented, and partly by that incurable sickness which soon ended in his dissolution.

As a Biographer, he is allowed to have excelled without a rival; and we may justly regret, that he who had so advantageously transmitted to posterity the lives of other eminent men, should have been thus intercepted in constructing the narrative of his own. But the particulars of this venerable man's personal history may still, in great measure, be preserved; and the public are authorised to expect them from some of his many friends, who are zealous to augment the monument of his fame by the detail of his private virtues.

That the authenticity of this Work may never be called in question, the original Manuscript will be deposited in the Library of Pembroke College in Oxford. Dr. Bray's associates are to receive the profits of the

First Edition, by the Author's appointment; and any further advantages that accrue will be distributed among his relations.

I have now discharged the trust reposed in me by that friend, whose labours entitle him to lasting gratitude and veneration from the literary, and still more from the Christian world. His Lives of the English Poets are written, as he justly hopes, in such a manner as may tend to the promotion of piety. This merit may be ascribed, with equal truth, to most of his other works; and doubtless to his Sermons, none of which indeed have yet been made public, nor is it known where they are extant; though it be certain, from his own acknowledgment, both in conversation and writing, that he composed many. As he seems to have turned his thoughts with peculiar earnestness to the study of religious subjects, we may presume these