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The Lyceum Address

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865)

Read by: Douglas Harvey Language: English
 Length: 28 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre(s): Non-Fiction, History, Speeches

Product Formats and Options				
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Abraham Lincoln's *Lyceum Address*, delivered in 1838 and formally entitled "The Perpetuation of Our Political Processes", reflects on the fragility of American democracy and the potential dangers of lawlessness and mob rule. Lincoln begins by honoring the Founding Fathers and their sacrifices, emphasizing the importance of preserving their legacy. He warns against the threat posed by individuals who seek to undermine the rule of law and exploit public discontent for personal gain. Lincoln argues that the true danger to the nation comes not from external enemies but from internal strife and moral decay.

Central to Lincoln's message is the idea that respect for laws and institutions is essential for maintaining a stable and just society. He calls for citizens to uphold the principles of justice and equality, stressing the need for education and moral guidance to foster responsible citizenship. Lincoln uses historical examples, including the rise and fall of ancient republics, to illustrate the consequences of unchecked lawlessness and civic indifference.

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) was the 16th president of the United States and one of the nation's most influential leaders. Born in a log cabin in Hodgenville, he grew up in poverty on the frontier, largely educating himself through reading. Lincoln worked as a rail-splitter, store clerk, and lawyer before entering politics in Illinois. He served in the state legislature and later in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Lincoln rose to national prominence during the 1858 debates with Stephen A. Douglas, where he argued against the expansion of slavery. In 1860, he was elected president as a member of the Republican Party. His election triggered the secession of several Southern states, leading to the American Civil War.

During the war, Lincoln preserved the Union and issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared enslaved people in Confederate states free. He promoted the passage of the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery nationwide. In 1865, shortly after the war ended, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln is remembered for his leadership, eloquence, and enduring commitment to equality and democracy.