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Thanks for the Gifts: Reflections of the Evaluator of the Essays

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The essays were judged for originality and impact. We have had a lot of reflection in the media about the aftermath of Sept. 11th. In the two essays I found moving insights and reactions that I hadn't heard already.

Another feature I appreciated in the two essays was their theme of self-criticism. They discovered a sense of the ironic in our personal and national reactions to the tumultuous events. The essays led me to self-reflection and even repentance, for which I am grateful.

Finally, I found the touches of mild sarcasm in the essays poetic and artistic. Harsh sarcasm leaves one with a feeling of distaste and resentment. This kind of mild sarcasm leaves one with a wry smile and admiring appreciation for an observation conveyed incisively.

Thanks, authors. I trust that you will continue to develop and share the special literary gift our Lord has clearly given you. You will bring wisdom and enjoyment to many people for many years to come.

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