

Calvin Coolidge Says:

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., Dec. 24.—Customs occasionally survive their usefulness, but not for long. When they cease to contribute to human welfare in some way they will be discarded. If an institution prevails over a long series of years, the conclusion is inescapable that it is a benefit to humanity.

We can safely apply this principle to the holiday season. The reason that it continues with undiminished virility is not only because of its religious significance, but because the human race feels the need of its elevating and soul-satisfying activities. The holiday season is a great moral power in our lives. It makes better men and women in the world.

While it would be destructive to attempt to live in holiday fashion all the time, we always need more of the spirit of good cheer and good will. If we could probe deep enough into the hearts of men we should find that the present difficulties in the world are not material, but spiritual. A surplus of avarice and hate has been produced when the nations needed more forbearance and generosity. The holidays are helping each of us to supply some of this universal demand.

CALVIN COOLIDGE