

## **President Gerald R. Ford's handwritten reflections, 1977 or 1978**

Scanned from the collection **Gerald R. Ford: Materials from the writing of *A Time To Heal*** at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

While writing his autobiography, *A Time to Heal* (New York: Harper & Row, 1979), President Gerald R. Ford composed a series of personal reflections on twenty-seven topics. What makes these documents so unusual is not only their introspection but also their form. President Ford recorded these observations by hand, writing in blue ball point on his favored yellow writing tablets. He did not expend time and energy to polish and edit his writing, apparently planning to do so when incorporating them into the book. Therefore occasional spelling or grammatical errors or incomplete thoughts appear.

For each reflection the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library has scanned President Ford's handwritten document and added a Library-produced transcription below to aid in reading the reflection.

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Revenge or Forgiveness - Have I attempted revenge  
or extended forgiveness.

To my best recollection I have never attempted  
revenge. Revenge in the malicious sense is an  
anathema to me. I like to give & I expect to  
receive or vice-versa but it is never in the  
sense of getting even.

Forgiveness, on the other hand is a trait that  
I was brought up with under my Mother's guidance.  
Some of my friends, especially in the political arena,  
believe I overdid it. I was taught forgiveness  
is a good religious principle and I believe it. I  
also found as a pragmatic principle it made good  
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