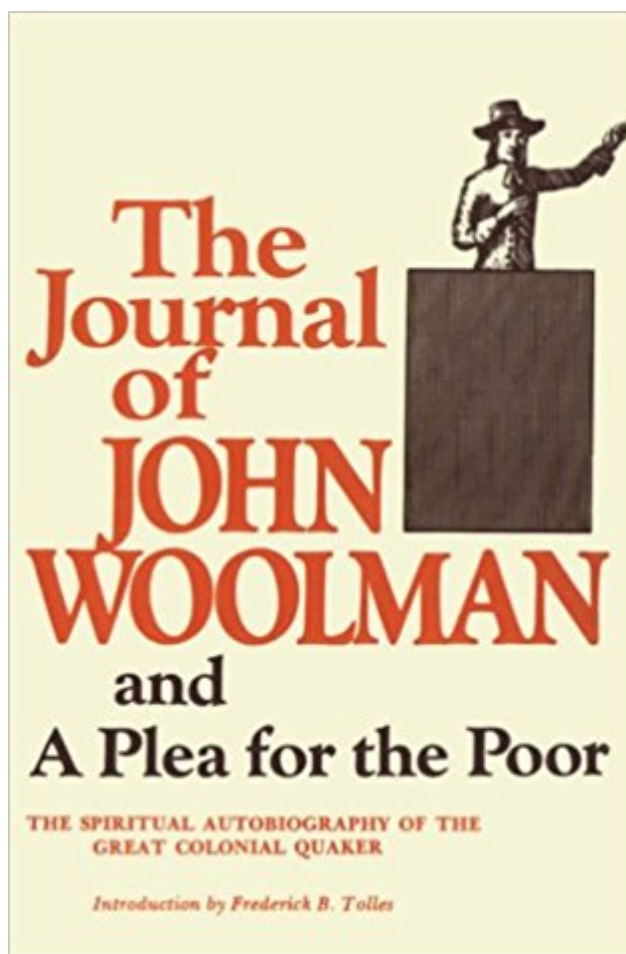


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# The Journal Of John Woolman And A Plea For The Poor



## Synopsis

The "journal" or spiritual autobiography of John Woolman was the characteristic literary expression of Quakerism in its first two centuries. Woolman's Journal was first published in 1774 (shortly after his death). His life, as recorded by himself, was the finest flower of a unique Quaker culture, Whose focus, as Howard H. Brinton has put it, was not on the literary or plastic arts but on "life itself in home, meeting and community", a life which was an "artistic creation as beautiful in its simplicity and proportion as was the architecture of its meeting houses..." Its distinguishing marks were not dogmas but practical testimonies for equality, simplicity and peace. These testimonies, once revolutionary in their social implications, were already becoming institutionalized in Woolman's time as the badges of a "peculiar people". In his quiet way-- he must have been the quietest radical in history-- John Woolman reformed them, tempered them in the stream of love, and converted them once again into instruments of social revolution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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John Woolman has such a sensitive, kind, and loving heart. He was so concerned for the welfare of his fellow colonial Americans no matter what the color of their skin. He was out there talking to people about the evils of slavery back in the 1650's long before others did the same. His heart was open to God's love and therefore he was filled with love. This love, which only comes from God, poured out onto all. He didn't move or speak unless the Spirit of God told him to do so. He is a model for us all. I highly recommend this book.

I see that John Woolman was instrumental in helping to discourage slave holding among the Quakers. He would be an exponent in the abolition cause of the Quakers who in turn were the first to free their slaves and endorse emancipation to the fullest.

Clean copy - like new. thanks

John Woolman is an extraordinary figure in U.S. History. He was a Quaker (FGC), who as a result of his faith and practice was convicted that Slavery is wrong. As a result of his thorough conviction he traveled throughout the Eastern States advocating strongly for abolition. Woolman was one of the earliest abolitionists in America. Some writers argue that Woolman's witness plowed the fields of the American Conscience, so they would be ready for the fights for abolition yet to come. The Quakers were few in number, but made an extraordinary impact on U.S. History. Woolman is a shining example of this. I loved how Woolman constantly wrestled with his own conscience in his journal. He would worry about just prices for merchandise in his shop. He had a practical sense of right and wrong, of applying "love of neighbor" to the nitty gritty details of life including minute business transactions. This is not the easiest read but worth the work.-Amos Smith (author of *Healing The Divide: Recovering Christianity's Mystic Roots*)

The Journal of John Woolman is a book that I have heard about for years without having read. Woolman (1720-1772) was a travelling Quaker writer and preacher who gave up a prosperous life as a clerk/tailor to follow the demands of his conscience. In the Journal Woolman shares the story

that led him on his way. Very human, he wrestles with what it meant to follow his conscience when what his conscience demanded placed him at odds with his community. He was specifically concerned with the evils of slavery. While he spoke sympathetically of those who were unable to give up income connected to the slave trade, he tried to be the example the rest could follow. He became a quiet and important influence in the Quaker community, and one of the movers that brought so many Quakers to the abolitionist movement. Interesting, compassionate and wise. And certainly just as relevant today to many of our moral issues. There's a startling image that will remain with me of a dignified man refusing to wear dyed clothes in Meeting, since most cloth was produced using slave labor. Recommended for everyone, but is probably of particular relevance to those with an interest in the Abolitionist movement or Quaker history. (The book is freely available in many online archives. I read the Citadel Press edition of the book, which contained a quite helpful introduction by Frederick B. Tolles.)

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