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Lincoln

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To the memory of my father, Isaac Kaplan (1906–1987); and to Hattie M. Strelitz, the teacher who, on the Lower East Side of New York City in December 1918, awarded him a copy of *The Perfect Tribute*, an idealistic myth about the writing of the Gettysburg Address. It was given to him for “Proficiency and Excellent Class Spirit” and came into my hands a generation later. It impressed me deeply with a truth that empowers us all: the power of Lincoln’s language.



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