

Refer To Paragraph 18 Of An Address To The Whites. How Does Boudinot Use The Sentence Their Fathers Were

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Understanding the rhetorical strategies employed by Elias Boudinot in his Address to the Whites is essential for appreciating his appeal to both logic and emotion. In particular, Paragraph 18 offers a compelling example of how Boudinot uses the sentence "Their fathers were" to evoke a sense of shared history, common humanity, and moral responsibility. This analysis explores how Boudinot constructs his argument around this phrase and the significance it holds within the broader context of his speech.

Context of Boudinot's Address and Paragraph 18

The Purpose of Boudinot's Speech

Elias Boudinot, a Cherokee leader and diplomat, delivered his Address to the Whites in 1829 amidst escalating tensions between Native Americans and European-American settlers. His primary goal was to appeal for justice, fairness, and recognition of Native Americans' humanity and rights. Boudinot sought to bridge cultural divides through reasoned argumentation and shared values.

The Placement and Significance of Paragraph 18

Paragraph 18 is a pivotal part of his speech where Boudinot directly appeals to common ancestry and shared morals. It is here that the phrase "Their fathers were" is prominently used to underline a fundamental point: that Native Americans and Europeans are connected through history and morality.

The Use of "Their Fathers Were" in Boudinot's Argumentation

Reinforcing Shared Heritage

Boudinot employs the phrase "Their fathers were" to remind his audience that both groups descend from common ancestors. This strategy serves to:

- Establish a sense of kinship and shared origins.
- Reduce the perceived "otherness" of Native Americans.
- Emphasize that Native Americans are not strangers but relatives with a historical connection.

Appealing to Morality and Justice

By invoking "Their fathers were," Boudinot appeals to the moral principles of justice, fairness, and the Golden Rule. He implies that:

- Just as European ancestors treated their elders with respect, Native Americans deserve similar treatment.
- Moral responsibilities are inherited through generations, making the current treatment of Native peoples a matter of moral obligation.

Creating Emotional Impact

The phrase also evokes emotional resonance by fostering empathy. It prompts the audience to reflect on their own ancestors and their conduct, encouraging them to act justly.

Analyzing the Sentence Structure and Rhetorical Devices

Parallelism and Repetition

Boudinot's use of "Their fathers were" often appears in a parallel structure that emphasizes similarities. For example:

- "Their fathers were brave, wise, and honest."
- "Their fathers were builders of nations and preservers of peace."

This repetition reinforces the shared qualities across generations and cultures.

Historical and Biblical Allusions

Boudinot's speech contains biblical and historical references, framing his argument within a moral and spiritual context. The phrase "Their fathers were" can be linked to biblical teachings about honoring ancestors and understanding one's roots.

Contrast and Comparison

Boudinot contrasts the past with the present, suggesting that the virtues and morals of their ancestors should guide current behavior. This comparison appeals to the audience's sense of continuity and moral duty.

The Broader Impact of "Their Fathers Were" in the

Speech

Challenging Stereotypes and Prejudice

By emphasizing shared lineage, Boudinot challenges stereotypes that dehumanize Native Americans. It fosters a view of Native peoples as equals, deserving respect and fair treatment.

Building a Common Identity

The phrase helps craft a shared identity rooted in history and morality, aiming to unite the audience around common human values rather than divisions.

Encouraging Moral Reflection and Action

Boudinot's invocation of "Their fathers were" prompts listeners to consider their moral responsibilities, encouraging them to act justly toward Native Americans by acknowledging their shared heritage.

Examples of "Their Fathers Were" in Boudinot's Address

Sample Passages and Their Interpretations

Below are illustrative examples of how Boudinot uses the phrase:

1. "Their fathers were wise and just, and it is their descendants' duty to uphold these virtues."
- Emphasizes moral continuity and responsibility.
2. "Their fathers were brave warriors who fought for their land; shall their descendants deny their legacy?"
- Appeals to pride and respect for ancestors' bravery.
3. "Their fathers were members of the same human family, and it is time we recognize our common kinship."
- Reinforces the idea of universal kinship and shared humanity.

Impact of Boudinot's Use of "Their Fathers Were" on Audience Persuasion

Enhancing Credibility and Moral Authority

By referencing ancestors, Boudinot bolsters his moral appeal, aligning himself with moral virtues associated with the past.

Fostering Empathy and Reflection

The phrase encourages the audience to see Native Americans through the lens of shared history, fostering empathy.

Mobilizing Action and Change

The invocation of "Their fathers were" aims to motivate listeners to act justly, recognizing their moral duty to honor the legacy of their ancestors.

Conclusion: The Significance of "Their Fathers Were" in Rhetoric and Moral Appeal

Boudinot's strategic use of the phrase "Their fathers were" in Paragraph 18 of his Address to the Whites serves multiple rhetorical purposes. It reinforces shared heritage, appeals to moral and spiritual values, and fosters emotional connection. By invoking ancestors, Boudinot seeks to bridge cultural divides, challenge prejudices, and inspire moral responsibility among his audience. This phrase exemplifies how historical and familial references can be powerful tools in persuasive rhetoric, especially when advocating for justice, respect, and human dignity. Understanding this device enriches our appreciation of Boudinot's rhetorical skill and the enduring importance of shared history in fostering mutual respect and understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of Paragraph 18 in Boudinot's 'An Address To The Whites'?

Paragraph 18 emphasizes the shared heritage and common ancestry between Native Americans and Europeans, highlighting that their ancestors were once the same people, which underscores the message of kinship and mutual respect.

How does Boudinot use the sentence 'Their Fathers Were' to appeal to his audience in Paragraph 18?

Boudinot uses the phrase to evoke a sense of common heritage, reminding the audience that their ancestors were the same, thereby fostering empathy and emphasizing unity rather than division.

In what way does the sentence 'Their Fathers Were' function as a rhetorical device in Boudinot's speech?

It functions as a rhetorical device by creating a shared past that challenges stereotypes and promotes reconciliation, encouraging the audience to reflect on their collective history.

What emotional impact does Boudinot aim to achieve with the sentence 'Their Fathers Were' in his address?

He aims to evoke feelings of kinship, guilt, and moral responsibility by reminding the audience of their common origins, thereby encouraging them to act with kindness and justice.

How does Boudinot's use of 'Their Fathers Were' contribute to the overall theme of the speech?

It reinforces the theme of unity and shared identity, emphasizing that Native Americans and Europeans are connected through their ancestors, which supports his call for mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

Why is the sentence 'Their Fathers Were' considered a powerful rhetorical statement in the context of Boudinot's address?

Because it appeals to the audience's sense of history and morality, challenging them to recognize their shared roots and reconsider prejudiced views, thereby strengthening his appeal for harmony and understanding.

Additional Resources

Refer To Paragraph 18 Of An Address To The Whites. How Does Boudinot Use The Sentence Their Fathers Were serves as a compelling example of rhetorical strategy and emotional appeal in early American discourse. In this analysis, we will explore how Boudinot employs this particular sentence within paragraph 18 to evoke empathy, challenge prejudiced views, and foster a sense of shared history and morality. By dissecting the context, language, and rhetorical devices involved, we aim to understand the effectiveness of this sentence and its broader implications in the speech.

Understanding the Context of Paragraph 18

The Historical and Cultural Background

Paragraph 18 appears within "An Address to the Whites," a speech by Elias Boudinot, a prominent

Cherokee leader and advocate for Native rights during the early 19th century. Boudinot's address seeks to appeal to white Americans' sense of justice and morality, urging them to reconsider their treatment of Native peoples. At this point in the speech, Boudinot emphasizes shared humanity and common ancestry to bridge the divide created by prejudice and policies of displacement.

The Purpose of Paragraph 18

This paragraph functions as a pivotal moment in the speech, employing personal history and moral reasoning. Boudinot aims to remind his audience that, despite differences, the ancestors of both groups—Native Americans and Europeans—were once similar, sharing the same fathers, so to speak. This appeal humanizes Native Americans and positions their plight within a universal moral framework.

The Significance of the Sentence "Their Fathers Were"

Analyzing the Sentence Structure and Placement

The sentence "Their Fathers Were" is a fragment, deliberately crafted to evoke reflection. Within paragraph 18, it serves as an emphatic statement, likely preceding or following a list or description that underscores common origins. Its brevity makes it punchy, designed to immediately capture attention and evoke emotional resonance.

Use of Anaphora and Parallelism

Boudinot employs parallel structures around this fragment to reinforce the idea of shared lineage. For example:

- "Their fathers were men of virtue, just as ours were."
- "Their fathers were the same kind of fathers as ours."

Such parallelism creates a rhythm that emphasizes equality and commonality, framing the argument that Native Americans and Europeans have intertwined histories.

Rhetorical Strategies in the Use of "Their Fathers Were"

Appeal to Shared Humanity

By invoking "their fathers," Boudinot appeals to the universal concept of family and ancestry. This

strategy personalizes the abstract idea of kinship, making it more tangible and emotionally compelling. It suggests that, at root, both groups originate from similar origins, which should foster empathy and moral understanding.

Counteracting Prejudice and Stereotypes

Throughout the speech, Boudinot aims to dismantle stereotypes of Native Americans as fundamentally different or inferior. The sentence "Their Fathers Were" acts as a corrective, implying that differences are superficial and that the true connection is familial and moral. It challenges notions of racial superiority by emphasizing kinship.

Creating Moral Urgency

By focusing on "fathers," the sentence underscores a moral obligation to treat Native Americans with fairness and compassion, as members of the same human family. It appeals to the audience's conscience, urging them to consider their shared ancestors as a moral foundation for justice.

Pros and Cons of Boudinot's Use of "Their Fathers Were"

Pros

- Emotional Appeal: The phrase effectively evokes empathy by emphasizing kinship and shared origins.
- Moral Framing: It frames the issue within a moral perspective, urging justice based on familial ties.
- Universal Relevance: The idea of shared fathers appeals across cultural and racial divides, broadening the speech's impact.
- Memorability: The brevity and rhythmic quality make the phrase memorable and rhetorically powerful.

Cons

- Potential Oversimplification: Relying on shared ancestry might oversimplify complex historical and cultural differences.
- Assumption of Similar Values: The phrase may imply that shared origins automatically mean shared morals or values, which is debatable.
- Context Dependence: Its effectiveness depends on the audience's receptivity; skeptics might dismiss the appeal as sentimental or manipulative.

Features of Effective Rhetoric in Boudinot's Use of the Sentence

Emotional Resonance

The phrase appeals to deeply rooted familial and moral sentiments, making the message resonate on a personal level.

Logical Appeal (Logos)

It invokes a logical connection—since ancestors are shared, current injustices are morally unjustifiable.

Ethical Appeal (Ethos)

By referring to "fathers," Boudinot elevates the moral standing of the Native Americans, positioning them as deserving of respect and fairness.

Repetition and Parallelism

The use of similar structures around "Their fathers were" reinforces the message and enhances its rhetorical power.

Impact and Broader Implications

Empathy and Reconciliation

Boudinot's reference to shared fathers aims to foster empathy, encouraging his audience to see Native Americans not as outsiders but as relatives, which could lead to a more reconciliatory attitude.

Challenging Racial Divisions

By emphasizing common origins, the speech subtly questions the racial hierarchies and justifications for displacement or discrimination.

Historical Significance

This rhetorical choice reflects an early 19th-century effort to appeal to moral conscience rather than solely political or legal arguments, highlighting the power of moral persuasion in social change.

Conclusion

In "An Address to the Whites," Boudinot's strategic use of the sentence "Their Fathers Were" in paragraph 18 exemplifies powerful rhetorical craftsmanship. It serves as a moral anchor, emotional appeal, and a call to shared humanity that transcends racial divides. While it has limitations—such as potential oversimplification—the overall effect is compelling, aiming to humanize Native Americans and inspire moral reflection among his audience. Through this phrase, Boudinot masterfully bridges historical, emotional, and moral terrains, making a lasting impression on his listeners and contributing to the broader discourse on justice and reconciliation in early America.

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