

# LEGACY

*Mark Rhoads*

Which of us deserves a perfect father?  
The man who is himself the perfect son.  
And who presumes his father be the better  
part of Gandhi, Lee, and Washington?  
The son who's overcome with flawless art  
the ways and bents and firm proclivities  
inscribed on family chromosomes that chart  
our good along with darker tendencies.  
To blame the man for failings he possessed  
will not forgive the umbrage that you bear;  
the anger in the end will only wrest  
from gene and life a rocky thoroughfare.  
And be aware your father's worst abuse  
may rise in you and be your son's excuse.

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