

Source: Bishop Jacques Benigne Bossuet, *Politics Drawn From the Holy Scriptures*, 1679

There are four qualities essential to royal authority. First, the royal authority is sacred; second, it is paternal; third, it is absolute; fourth, it is submitted to reason. ...

Princes act then as ministers of God, and his lieutenants on earth. It is by them that he rules his empire. ... Thus, as we have seen, the royal throne is not the throne of a man, but the throne of God himself. ... There is then something religious and the respect we pay to the prince. The service of God and the respect for kings are one and the same thing However, because their power comes from above, princes must not think that they are free to use it at their pleasure; rather must they use it with fear and discretion, as a thing which comes to them from God, and of which God will demand a strict account. ... Kings should therefore tremble while using their God-given power, and think what a horrible sacrilege it is to misuse it.