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# III.6 How virtue is compensated for under monarchical government

- The Spirit of Law - Book III. On the principles of the three governments -

Date de mise en ligne : lundi 20 août 2018

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### III.6 How virtue is compensated for under monarchical government

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I am moving quickly and taking long strides so it will not be thought I am satirizing monarchical government. No : if it lacks one driving force, it has another. Honor, which is to say the prejudice of each person and of every rank, takes the place of virtue, and represents it everywhere ; honor can inspire the finest deeds ; it can, combined with the force of the laws, lead to the government's ends like virtue itself.

Thus, in well-ordered monarchies, everyone will be more or less a good citizen, and rarely will anyone be found who is a man of good will ; for being a man of good will requires that that be his intention. [\[1\]](#)

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[\[1\]](#) See the first note in III.5.