

Lincoln's¹ Gettysburg² Address³

(With Word Help and an Easy English Translation by Elizabeth Claire)

Fourscore⁴ and seven years ago
our **fathers**⁵ **brought forth**⁶ on this **continent**⁷
a new nation,

conceived⁸ in **Liberty**⁹,
and **dedicated**¹⁰ to the **proposition**¹¹ that all men are **created**¹² equal.

Now we are **engaged**¹³ in a great **civil war**¹⁴,
testing whether that nation,
or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated,
can long **endure**¹⁵.

We **are met**¹⁶ on a great **battlefield**¹⁷ of that war.

We have come to dedicate a **portion**¹⁸ of that field
as a **final resting place**¹⁹
for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.

It is altogether **fitting and proper**²⁰ that we should do this.

But, **in a larger sense**²¹,
we can not dedicate...we can not **consecrate**²²...we can not **hallow**²³ this ground.

The **brave**²⁴ men, living and dead, who **struggled**²⁵ here,
have consecrated it, far above our **poor power**²⁶ to add or **detract**²⁷.

The world will little **note**²⁸, nor long remember what we say here,
but it can never forget what they did here.

It is for us **the living**²⁹, rather,
to be dedicated here to the **unfinished work**³⁰
which they who fought here have **thus far**³¹ so **nobly**³² **advanced**³³.

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great **task**³⁴ remaining before us—
that from these **honored dead**³⁵ we take **increased devotion**³⁶
to **that cause**³⁷ for which they gave the **last full measure of devotion**³⁸—

that we here **highly resolve**³⁹ that **these dead**⁴⁰ shall not have died **in vain**⁴¹—
that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—

and that government:
of the people, by the people, for the people,
shall not **perish**⁴² from the **earth**⁴³.

WORD HELP for Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

(Elizabeth Claire)

*NOTE: These words may have other definitions;
here, we give only the meanings needed for the Gettysburg Address.*

- ¹ **Lincoln** *noun*. Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the U.S.
- ² **Gettysburg** *noun*. A small town in Pennsylvania where the Confederate Army invaded the North, on July 1, 1863. They were stopped in three days by the Union Army (North). More than 7,000 soldiers from North and South died in those three days, with 22,000 wounded.
- ³ **address** *noun*. Speech to the people who came to officially dedicate the cemetery at Gettysburg.
- ⁴ **fourscore** *adjective*. Eighty (score = twenty). Fourscore and 7 = 87 years ago, that is in 1776..
- ⁵ **fathers** *noun, plural*. Ancestors; people who came before us.
- ⁶ **brought forth** *verb, past*. Started.
- ⁷ **continent** *noun*. Large body of land, in this case, North America.
- ⁸ **conceived** *verb, past participle*. Started from a seed.
- ⁹ **liberty** *noun*. Freedom.
- ¹⁰ **dedicated** *adjective*. Devoted to; committed to; loyal to; determined to do something that was promised.
- ¹¹ **proposition** *noun*. Idea, fundamental belief.
- ¹² **create** *verb*. To make something that was not there before.
- ¹³ **engage** *verb*. To put attention on; to carry out an activity; to be in a military battle.
- ¹⁴ **civil war** *noun phrase*. A war between parts of a country.
- ¹⁵ **endure** *verb*. To last; to exist through difficulties.
- ¹⁶ **are met** *verb phrase (old fashioned)* (We) are meeting.
- ¹⁷ **battlefield**. *noun*. A place where two armies fight.
- ¹⁸ **portion** *noun*. Part.
- ¹⁹ **final resting place** *noun phrase*. Cemetery where dead bodies are buried.
- ²⁰ **fitting and proper** *adjectives*. Right and suitable; expected by society.
- ²¹ **in a larger sense** *adverb phrase*. Looking at a larger picture, thinking of the great importance of this.
- ²² **consecrate** *verb*. To make something holy or very special.
- ²³ **hallow** *verb*. To make holy, important to God.
- ²⁴ **brave** *adjective*. Courageous. Having the ability to do something dangerous.
- ²⁵ **struggle** *verb*. To fight for a long time.
- ²⁶ **poor power** *noun phrase*. Weakness, having only a small ability.
- ²⁷ **detract** *verb*. To take away from.
- ²⁸ **note** *verb*. Pay attention to.
- ²⁹ **the living** *noun phrase*. People who are alive.
- ³⁰ **unfinished work** *noun phrase*. Bring the country back together, and free the slaves.
- ³¹ **thus far** *adverbial phrase*. In the past and up to today.
- ³² **nobly** *adverb*. Well done; done in an excellent way.
- ³³ **advance** *verb*. To bring work to a new level of accomplishment.
- ³⁴ **task** *noun*. A job.
- ³⁵ **honored dead** *noun phrase*. The soldiers who have been killed here, and whom we honor and admire.
- ³⁶ **increased devotion** *noun phrase*. With more love and determination.
- ³⁷ **that cause** *noun phrase*. The purpose of the war, that is, to bring the Confederate states (South) back into the Union, and to end slavery.
- ³⁸ **last full measure of devotion** *noun phrase*. Giving up their lives to show their complete devotion to their country.
- ³⁹ **highly resolve** *verb phrase*. Get energy and determination to do a job, no matter how hard it is.
- ⁴⁰ **these dead** *noun phrase*. The soldiers who have just been killed in battle.
- ⁴¹ **in vain** *adverb phrase*. Without any purpose; without a good result.
- ⁴² **perish** *verb*. Die and disappear forever.
- ⁴³ **Earth** *noun*. The planet we live on; the world.

Easy English Translation of
President Abraham Lincoln's speech
at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg

(Elizabeth Claire)

Eighty-seven years ago, our great grandfathers fought a war against England, to make us independent. They created a new nation (the United States of America) on the continent of North America. The reason for the new nation was freedom. The main idea for the nation was that all men are created equal.

Now our country has been fighting in a great civil war. This war is to see if the United States, with its ideas of liberty, (or any other country with ideas of liberty) can stay united and not fall apart when it goes through difficulties.

Today, we are meeting at a great battlefield of that war. Many soldiers have died here and are buried here. We have come to make speeches to honor their memory. Part of this land where the battle was fought is now the cemetery for the men who died so the nation could live.

This is the right thing to do.

However, we living people cannot make this ground special and holy.

The brave men who fought so hard here, both the ones who died, and the ones who still live, have made this ground very very special and holy. We who are just speaking here cannot add or take away from what they did.

The rest of the world probably isn't paying attention to what we say here in our speeches. But the world will never forget what those men did here.

It's up to us, the people who are alive, to get ourselves strong so we can finish the job that these men were working on, and that they were doing so bravely.

It's up to us to get the rest of the job done, a very large job. Let us take some of the spirit and energy for doing this from the dead soldiers. They died to show their love for our country...and we here, promise that the soldiers died for a good reason: that this nation, under God, shall have more freedom than it had before, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not die and disappear from the earth.

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