

Reading Two

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

by Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863

Part 1. Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.

Part 2. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate - we can not consecrate - we can not hallow - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.

Part 3. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom - and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

阅读材料之二

葛底斯堡的演讲

亚伯拉罕 林肯

一八六三年十一月十九日

第一部份。八十七年以前，我们的先辈们在这个大陆上创立了一个新国家。它孕育于自由之中，奉行一切人生来平等的原则。

现在我们正从事一场伟大的内战，以考验这个国家或者说以考验任何一个孕育于自由而奉行上述原则的国家是否能够存在下去。我们在这场战争中的一个伟大战场上集合。烈士们为使这个国家能够生存下去而献出了自己的生命。我们在此集会是为了把这个战场的一部份奉献给他们作为最后安息之所。

第二部份。我们这样做是完全应该而且非常恰当的。但是，从更广泛的意义上来说，这块土地我们不能够奉献，不能够圣化。曾在这里战斗过的勇士们，活着的和死了的，已经把这块土地神圣化了。这远不是我们微薄力量所能坛减的。全世界将很少注意到，也不会长期地记起我们在这里所说的话，但全世界永远不会忘记勇士们在这里做过的事。毋宁说，倒是我们这些还活着的人，应该在这里把自己奉献于勇士已经如此崇高地向前推进但尚未完成的事业。

第三部份。倒是我们应该在这里把自己奉献于仍然留在我们面前的伟大任务，以便使我们从这些光荣的死者身上汲取更多献身精神，来完成他们已经完全澈底为之献身的事业，以使我们在这里下定最大的决心不让这些死者白白牺牲，以便使国家在上帝福佑下得到自由的新生并且使这个属于人民，依靠人民，为人民服务的政府与世长存。*

* (本译文取自网络)