

## Sample MMM

In his second Inaugural Address, President Lincoln recited a speech designed to reunify the United States after a tumultuous civil war. Lincoln's strategy for his speech is to look ahead to a prosperous future where the North and South are not divided. Surprisingly, Lincoln does not condemn the southern slave states for their secession and unloyalty to the Union. Rather, Lincoln reflects on the nature of the war and speaks hopefully of the future in an effort to unite the country.

Though Lincoln is cautious in his second Inaugural Address to not appear to be malicious towards the Confederate States, he does address the conflict. Lincoln states that the Confederate States were willing to jeopardize the Union and initiate the war (lines 24-26). Lincoln continues to address the reasons for the conflict and the ensuing war, careful not to blame either the North or the South for the bloody war. Lincoln explains that neither the North nor the South predicted that the war would be as long and as devastating as it was (lines 37-39). Though the War was still occurring and was still very controversial at the time of his second Inaugural Address, Lincoln reflects on the war in a surprisingly unbiased manner.

After contemplating the division between the North and the South, President Lincoln draws a parallel between the two sides stating that both the North and the South have the same God. Lincoln explains that the two sides worship and pray to the same God despite the fact that they are praying for victory over the other side (lines 44-48). Yet God could not answer both prayers, Lincoln explains, and in this occasion, God willed that the slaves be freed.

Lincoln ends his Address with an optimistic look to the future. In the future that Lincoln describes, the North and South will make peace and the wounds left from the war will heal. Most importantly, though, this future will be achieved "with malice towards none" (line 70). Lincoln states that the North and South will once again be one nation without hatred or contempt towards either side.

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address is significant because Lincoln offered an objective point of view. Lincoln did not speak of the unloyalty of the South nor did he praise the North. Rather, Lincoln's message to the nation was unification. No longer should the country be divided by the issue of slavery, but united under a president who seeks the benefit for all.