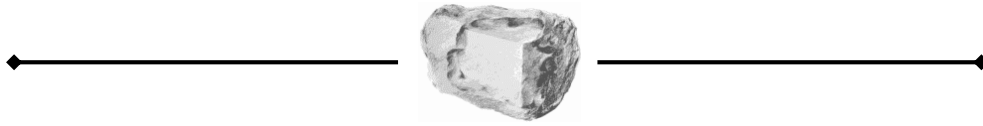


# I AM THE AMERICAN FLAG



## A Masonic Education Piece

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## I AM THE AMERICAN FLAG

Old Glory, Our American flag. What does she stand for? What is her meaning? Is she just a piece of colored cloth?

No, she is much more. She possesses the Wisdom of more than two hundred years of American history.

If she could speak, what would she say? I think that it would be something like this.



“I am the American flag and I wish to speak to all members of my country who are Anxious, angry, hurt, fearful, or worried. I will speak with the wisdom of a long life. I first felt the vigor of the wind on my face more than two hundred years ago.

Then, I looked down, to see horses pulling carriages along streets made of cobblestone, now I look up, to see jets soaring through the blue skies.

I have travelled from New York to San Francisco, from Chicago to New Orleans and across every sea on the face of this earth. I have unfurled my pride on sailing ships, on steamers and on mighty vessels of armed Nuclear power, to bring peace and freedom to oppressed people of the World.

I have travelled far, more than any other traveler in history, across continents, deserts and seas.

I was aboard the mighty Saturn Rocket, and I felt the sure-footed acceleration generated by five of the most powerful engines known to man, as we blasted through the pull of the earth's atmosphere and soared through the silent seas of space until; at last, I stood proudly on the Gray surface of the shining moon.

I am the American flag and I have something important to say to my country.

I have earned the right to speak. The price paid for my freedom of speech is a precious price that few can remember, or even begin to comprehend.

Most forget, but I still see in my memory those brave young men and women who died for me in every foreign war that my country was involved in.

Those who died for my right to speak in freedom are buried in the Flanders's fields of Europe, in the Punchbowl of Hawaii, on the outskirts of Manila, in the Philippians, in the Jungles of Vietnam, the deserts Iraq, in Afghanistan and in many other places under the sun.

And when they died for me, I wrapped them in my love and draped my honor across their caskets in tropics, deserts and seas.

I am proud of my country. Show me any other country whose people I could fly over with greater honor. I know of no other country whose people have been more willing to spend their money and send their young people to sail on strange seas, soar through unfamiliar skies or walk on foreign and hostile soils to share the rich bounty of blessings that we have enjoyed here in America.



How odd those people from other lands must have looked to our Young men and women from small town America. But their hearts never noticed, because they saw them only as oppressed fellow human beings, who were hurting, and crying out for help.

So they walked on through the mud, leaving behind them a trail of their own blood, as they liberated people who they had never seen before and would never see again.

And along the way, they found time to deliver babies of primitive mothers and to pass out chewing gum to little children who had never tasted it before.

When the peace finally came, they simply went home, asking no favors and expecting no monuments. Their services were rendered and sometimes, their lives were lost, simply because of their love of freedom and their duty to their country.

I am proud of my people's gifts to the world. I am the flag of the United States of America, the symbol of freedom to the most powerful country on the face of this earth.

Yet, with this power, is Great Compassion. For more than two hundred years, I have been packed into the suitcases and trunks of Doctors, Teachers and Missionaries. Together, we have traveled to the ends of the earth to share the good things that we have in our land. We have also shared with much of the world, the precious Word of Almighty God;



For without the generous gifts of my people, millions of poor souls would have slipped into eternity, without ever having heard the Gospel of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

No other country knows greater freedom than my country. Freedom for every man, woman and child to choose their life's work. Freedom to travel from state to state without armed border guards demanding to see passports.

Freedom to try, and succeed, freedom to fail and not be cast into prison for failure. Freedom to speak, to write, to question or to praise anyone, regardless of how high their station or rank and not fear a wire-tap on the telephone, or a knock on the door at night.

Freedom to worship the Creator under any religious denomination that they chose.

I am proud of the harvest of our land. A glorious monument to the ingenuity of the American farmer. Corn, wheat, cotton, apples, I see the harvest of my fifty states and it makes me proud.



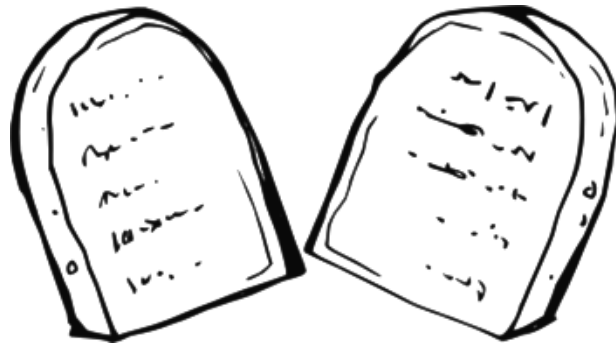
Look at the fruit of her hand, for out of her factories and laboratories, an endless stream of new products flows forth; wonder drugs and vaccines to cure forever ancient plagues that for centuries killed children. Diseases that are now gone forever, now only a memory, because of American Technology.

Tools to handle any task: to reach the moon, to move mountains, or to photograph the inside of the human heart.

Scientific engineering that has enabled backward countries to feed and to clothe themselves for the first time in their histories.

“Old Glory” I am called. What is my glory? My glory is the freedom I give to each law-abiding man, woman, and child in this country. But hear this, my beloved American citizens, and hear it well.

Freedom depends on morality. The Ten Commandments and the word of God are the foundation stones of time-tested morality, and they are the basis upon which our forefathers built this great nation.



It was made possible simply because the majority of my citizens were followers of the Ten Commandments and the Word of God. Should a majority of my citizens forsake the discipline that comes only through moral commitment, then society will no longer dare to trust itself with such great freedoms.

Without God, my stars will be overclouded, my stripes will fade, my glory will depart, and America’s liberty will soon erode and die.

For more than we know, the explanation for this nation’s strength can be found in the words of one whose teachings were followed by the founding fathers of this great nation.

The spokesman for God, the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “Whosoever hearth these sayings of mine, and doth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock. And the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock”.

America is that house. God has never once removed His hand of blessing from our nation.

Down through the ages, humans have sought freedom, and won it, for themselves and for others. Moses led his people out of bondage. The Romans drove out their kings and ruled themselves. Socrates met death without fear, for he knew that his soul would live forever.

But the freedom that Jesus came to teach the world was a freedom much greater than that which can be won by force of arms. And it can be ours, simply for the asking.

The great moments of American Liberty are recorded in our history. The great moments of the future will come to us, as current events. They will come from our colleges and universities, as students learn new and better ways to feed a hungry world.

They will come from our science laboratories, as new cures for diseases are discovered. They will come in the sermons of our religious leaders and in the messages of our presidents.

For each age, there is a new and wider vision of freedom. Now, more clearly than ever before, we are able to see what the great moments of history have been trying to tell us. That true freedom lies not on the field of battle, but within the depths of our own soul.

We stand today on the threshold of a new era, on the threshold of a new age.

I am the American Flag. I am your Flag. I am the Flag of Freedom.”







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