

The Ground Zero Address

We look upon our nation now, witnessing all that has occurred and is occurring. Over time, the eyes of this nation have grown to observe war, hatred, manslaughter, anger, and the tragic day that left a permanent scar on its soul. We weep for that tragic day when so many suffered. We gather here today to remember and acknowledge the people who lost their lives on this very spot. We mourn for our nation, who for so long searched for answers to its grief. What has occurred here will forever be remembered and it must be known that all who have died on these grounds will live in the memory of our nation.

But it must be urged that we do not engage in horrors such as these, to avenge our sufferings. We cannot look at this tragedy and see only anger and hatred, for then anger and hatred will be all that proceeds from it. We cannot dwell on the concept of revenge, for the punishment of others is simply the punishment of ourselves. Instead, we must acknowledge that this tragedy will not, and has not, annihilated either the spirit or the fortitude of the American people. No, this nation will never be the same. History cannot be erased. But the future is still in our hands, and we, as a people, will honor those who suffered on that tragic day by uniting as one and allowing this nation to grow from ground zero and rise to become the nation our founding fathers intended it to be.

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