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SINCERITY IN HISTORY



The Emancipation Proclamation is a historic decree signed by the sixteenth President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. In short, it reads:

"...On the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State...shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

After years of watching, waiting and planning, the hour had come for President

Lincoln to sign an important document that would bring freedom to the oppressed in America. Having openly expressed to others that the existence of slavery was a continual torment to him, he openly purposed to do whatever he could to stop it. Signing this document would be the first step in righting a tragedy in our great nation.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Abe's actions spoke louder than his words.

Abe knew the soon-to-be-released slaves would face many new challenges and temptations. As he reflected on his own past, a smile crept onto his face. He remembered a time when he had walked several miles to borrow a law commentary book from a gentleman in a neighboring community. It was no secret that he spent every spare moment he had studying and learning all he could.

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After borrowing the book, Abe left it near an open doorway in his house. Later that afternoon, the entire countryside was drenched with heavy rains. Remembering the book exposed near the door, he ran home only to find it sopping wet and ruined. Right away, he set off down the muddy road to confess to the gentleman that had trusted him with his prized book what had happened to it. Knocking on the door, Abraham admitted that he had acted irresponsibly with the man's possession and he had come to do whatever he could to repay him. After some discussion, it was agreed that Abe would split wood and plow some fields to compensate for the loss of the book.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Abe took responsibility for his own actions by admitting his carelessness and working to pay back the loss.

Reflecting back on that hard lesson, Abe contemplated the condition of his beloved country. He hoped that each side would take responsibility for its wrongs. Again he pondered the significance of this day and he looked down at the waiting document. Taking strength from the many hopeful faces of men, women, and children, he had encountered he slowly and deliberately signed, "Abraham Lincoln" and the fate of slaves all over America were forever changed.

Did you spot the "I Will"? Abe did not take advantage of other people and did what he could to defend those that could not defend themselves.

The sincerity that Abraham Lincoln possessed is evidenced throughout his entire lifetime. He truly reflected honesty and genuineness.

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Concept by : Character First