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**The Lady of Hope**

The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World is a great symbol of freedom that has impacted many people who migrated from different places. Its value has increased throughout the years. Now people from around the world come to visit the statue, respecting it and acknowledging it for its true meaning. The views on the statue of liberty are different in many aspects, such as, what it symbolized to many immigrants from around the world and its history. In addition, the statute itself represents hope, opportunity, enlightenment, independence, unity, and freedom (Groeneveld).

 For many people around the world, the statue of liberty represented a new beginning, but to the immigrants at the time, it represented more than just that. Every time an immigrant would travel to Liberty Island and see the statue, they would get a welcoming feeling. The Lady of Hope is more than a monument. For instance, the tablet she holds in her hand represents how the country is different from any other place. For example, the tablet symbolizes how the United States is independent from other countries, creates its own laws, and a place where anyone has freedom to achieve their goals. Also, unity is represented by the crown she wears (Groeneveld). According to the author Savannah Groeneveld, in the article “What Did the Statue of Liberty Represent for New Immigrants,” Groeneveld states that the crown represents the seven continents and world unity. “Liberty also meant freedom to come to the United States and create a new life without religious and ethnic persecution” ("Lazarus's Poem").

In order to understand the significance of the statue of liberty, its important to know its history. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France in 1886 and was intended to represent the day the Declaration of Independence was signed. The idea of this gift was to establish peace and friendship between both sides. The man who designed and created the statue was Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi. He initially made different types of models of the statue and once he had the perfect statue, “wooden models” were created and were covered with copper sheets to form the shape of the statue ("Immigration: Statue of Liberty History"). Once it was done, it was sent to the American ambassador in Paris to be sent to New York. Unfortunately, it had to be taken down into 300 pieces in order for it to get there and could not be put together quickly because the pedestal was not done ("History of The Statue of Liberty"). In a couple months they installed the statue at Liberty Island. However, the real reason this event was significant was because of a poem called the “New Colossus,” by a woman named Emma Lazarus. It described how the statue was a form of refuge for immigrants escaping from Europe. One of her most famous quotes that opened the eyes of many Americans and people from the world was, “Give me your tired, your poor,/Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free” ( “Lazarus’s Poem”). This quote really helped the Statue of Liberty to gain its reputation. Moreover, this poem played a great role when money was being raised for the statue's pedestal ("Lazarus's Poem"). Although, her poem helped out a lot, it was not really acknowledged until after her death ("Lazarus's Poem"). This was because a woman named Georgina Schuyler found the poem in a portfolio shortly after Emma's death. Georgina decided to engrave the poem at the base of the statue in bronze to show everyone that they are welcomed ("Immigration: Statue of Liberty History"). This poem can be seen at the statue’s location in what used to be known as Ellis Island.

From around 1892 to 1954, Ellis Island became the central federal immigration station and spread out to three connected islands ("Ellis Island"). Around the 1920s, it was necessary to make immigrants take medical and legal inspections before being able to enter the U.S.A. These inspections were meant to prevent disease from being transmitted to America. Those who were in first class or second did not need to take the inspection on Ellis Island. They could simply take it on the ship and when they arrived on land they could be free to enjoy living in America. On the other hand, those who did not pass the inspections were sailed back to their country. This was devastating because all of these people had to spend days and months sailing to get to America and returning back to their country was very discouraging for them. Most of these immigrants who arrived at the island were running away from religious persecution, political oppression, and economic hardship ("Ellis Island"). This is why the Statue is so fulfilling to many people around the world. It promised that the United States would be a free place where people could not be chased by the hardships that drove them to America. It promised the American Dream everyone so desperately searched for. However, people that immigrated from other countries still needed to pass the medical inspection and legal inspection.

To start off the medical inspection, doctors were stationed on the second floor and made the immigrants walk up the stairs with their luggage. During this process the doctors would watch the people very carefully for signs of heart trouble and shortness of breath (“Ellis Island”). At the time period that these inspections took place, considering that all doctors were males, many females who had never been touched by another man or women who had only been touched by their husbands, felt very uncomfortable.

Today many tourists see the Statue of Liberty as a piece of entertainment, one of New York City’s major attraction. We see it in the movies and immediately recognize it. In reality, the value of the Lady of Hope is more than just that. The Statue of Liberty resembles dreams of having a better life, a hope for new beginnings, a new future that is promising and a place where you can accomplish your goals without having to deal with the great problems faced back home. The Lady of Liberty has seen millions of people that look for a better life. Ever since the Statute of Liberty arrived on U.S. soil to this present day, immigrants from around the world view the statue as a symbol of new beginnings.

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