**Commentary on the Gettysburg Address**

The Thesis presented: “*We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate--we cannot hallow--this ground.  The brave men, living and dead . . . have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract[[1]](#footnote-2)”.* President Lincoln address was more of the technical. Any listener cannot get hold of the exact thought, as to what exactly the President wanted to convey. This address is therefore considered crucial in bringing the distracted people of America together.

*The context of the address*: US was caught in a devastating civil war. Union and Confederate troops were standing against each other. Therefore the purpose of this address was to signify the importance of the lives of who were killed during the war. Lincoln also wanted to inspire people not to let go of the opportunity of getting a united nation. He mentioned in his early words “*four scores and seven*”, which means that eighty-seven years had passed when the forefathers of the US, achieved success against Britain. He reminded the audience the basis on which their country was created. He concerted the principles for which the United States was made to stand, which were equality and justice for all.

*The challenge in hand*: He contemplated ion his address that the foundations of his country and the country of his people are under attack. For him, this situation was not desirable; but at the same time, he was concerned about the life and dreams of his people. He also had the idea that- if the US, could not stand firmly on its roots, no other country can grow from them else's. In this address, Lincoln tribute as much beautiful way as possible- the people of his country who sacrificed their lives. This address reveals that the challenge at the hands was unity and not just the preservance of the ideals of his state.

*Life matters*: He contrasted life and death. Although he wanted to preserve the unity of his state, at the same time, he knew that the challenge at hand requires ferocious war against the evils of the society. He quoted “those who will sacrifice for their country, will live until the foundations of the states are intact[[2]](#footnote-3)”. Similarly, during the end, he kept on inducing a feeling of completion of the unfinished task throughout the speech. The usage of inspiring words made the whole statement felt inspirational and soothing.

1. (n.d.). Retrieved March 26, 2019, from http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/gettysburg/good\_cause/transcript.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. “Ibid.” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)