Manuscript: Abraham Lincoln's Greatest Story

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THE GREATEST STORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The significant stories of a man's life hinge on his decisions. The story becomes momentous when the decision is made with a certainty that it means long continued sacrifice when it is realized that the end is doubtful, possibly tragic.

Out of such a decision taken deliberately and shirkingly the Great Story of Abraham Lincoln's life unfolded.

He was a man of forty five, settled into what promised to be an honorable and successful career as a lawyer, the political ambition with which he had begun life put away. But he was a citizen and he could not evade the citizen's obligation to make up and speak his mind on public questions. A direful one now faced him - not a new one.

The people of the United States had been struggling with it and settling it temporarily by compromises since the making of their constitution - was slavery to be kept within the boundaries law had set for it, remain sectional when it might die a natural death, or must it become a national institution.

The fight broke out again in 1854, the battle centering in Illinois - Lincoln's home - a struggle to extend slavery into territory set aside to be free.
As a citizen Lincoln spoke his mind, spoke it in an argument so bold and unanswerable that all those who saw with him demanded that he become their leader.

But what did it mean leading a corporal’s guard in an unpopular fight against one of the greatest men of the Day? It meant breaking valued established relations—social, political, professional relations—built up from meager beginnings by hard and discouraging labor. It meant neglect of the profession on which he had now for the first time getting a firm hold. Should he be sure to do that, he with a family—boys to educate? More serious, still he must enter the race for office for the struggle was between political parties.

"God knows how sincerely I prayed from the first that this field of ambition might not be opened," he said when accused of ambition, "not mean ridicule, calumny and certain defeat.

That for him, but what for the Union, that waiting of men to insure themselves freedom to work out their lives which from boyhood had had for him a mystical sanctity? Refuse to extend slavery and the old threat of disunion would surely be heard. He smelt war in it. Was he willing to face war to end the spread of human bondage? He made his decision on his knees, doom in his heart.
For four years the fight went on. He came out defeated. He fought "bespattered with every imaginable odious epithet" - without money to pay household expenses. But he had reward: he had made the fight - more people in Illinois then ever before saying, "Lincoln has got it right. We must stop this thing or it will spread all over the country."

"It was not only in Illinois, but outside..."
as I awoke
before the sun came. The ocean seemed to
be a black man free, and A. L. Saum and
San Diegans still lived. The sun must be hot,
always known to be hungry in the
breathtaking heat. And still there? Why
should that dream and its
beauty last...? We had learned to be at peace with
reminding things, still content being
that several minutes swiftly to a dark
a mediocre strip of night. How could
people believe in such a time? They had
beastly barns. Mining
simply to add to a mediocre state,
said these lull sleep? And we
still shawng in a come... the
great dark room, a weeping crowd,
draped her, and went under the
medium. We numbed the President
in Death.

Why should we still be troubled?
War Five! Sir they fruited! A
Happy End?
From an epilogue, masstake, large

Millen - do inclement, large

Small, hurt, aim, pieces, and grace

Hughes, hurt, aim, pieces, and grace

A wind

Hurt

A wind