

# This I Believe

I believe in a country that symbolizes life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. I believe in democracy, which is why in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the role of tyranny is on the decline. I have been watching all the Middle-Eastern riots, and wondered how can a country crumble so quickly?

I believe in life. I believe in cherishing life's every moment. Life is full of twists and turns, sometimes for the best or for the worst. How we traverse these twists and turns is up to us. We can drive fast and just get to where you want to be or we can enjoy the ride and the views and make the most of every moment. I believe death is just a part of life, as is failure to succeed. The only way we can die peacefully is knowing that we have made the most of our memories and hopefully left this world better than before. The only way to be remembered after death is by all the people you touched in your life, either positively or negatively. By trying to touch everyone positively you are leaving this world better than before.

I believe in liberty. I believe that within every soul lies an unalienable right to be free from coercion. I believe in a government that places liberty at the center of its concerns, that enforces the law solely to protect that freedom, and that sees innocence before guilt. I believe in freedom of speech and the right to govern. I believe in the right to own property and bear arms to protect that property. I believe that all these are common ideals of the human race. I believe that every government needs checks and balances, because with power comes greed. This is why many Middle-eastern countries are still not free. There are always going to be leaders who try to abuse their power and oppress others for their own good.

I believe in the pursuit of happiness. I believe that in that journey no man or government should conflict with that ideal. I believe that none of us know what true happiness is, but we all know to keep looking. I believe that you are the only thing holding your ability to reach happiness. Not money and material items. It is all about the way you look at life. I believe in being optimistic; looking at the brighter side of things will bring you to a better mood. This is the way to fully live each moment to the fullest. We are so lucky just to have feet to walk this earth, eyes to see it, and ears to hear it.

And I believe in a country that embellishes all these things to the fullest, in a country where humans flock to just to get away from unjust dictators or for the hopes of a better life. I believe in a poem inscribed on the Statue of Liberty that greets hundreds of thousands immigrants each year. It says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" And I know that this country is the United States of America.