

#### Wisdom

#### **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Often known as "Honest Abe" or "the Great Emancipator," Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States, serving from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865.

Reared in a poor family on the western frontier, Lincoln was selfeducated, and became a country lawyer, a Whig Party leader, Illinois state legislator during the 1830s, and a one-term member of the US House of Representatives during the 1840s.

Lincoln led the United States through its greatest constitutional, military, and moral crises — the American Civil War — preserving the Union, abolishing slavery, strengthening the government and modernizing the economy.

Embroiled in a Civil War for much of his presidency, Lincoln was staunchly opposed to the expansion of slavery. As the leader of the moderate faction of the Republican party, Lincoln found his policies and personality were "blasted from all sides."

His Gettysburg Address of 1863 became the most quoted speech in American history. It was an iconic statement of America's dedication to the principles of nationalism, republicanism, equal rights, liberty, and democracy.

"Most folks are about as happy as they make their minds up to be."



"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt."



"No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent."



"It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues."



"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed, is more important than any other one thing."

"That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well."



"Surely God would not have created such a being as man, with an ability to grasp the infinite, to exist only for a day! No, no, man was made for immortality."



"My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure."



"Wanting to work is so rare a merit that it should be encouraged."



"I desire to so conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside of me."



"We live in the midst of alarms; anxiety beclouds the future; we expect some new disaster with each newspaper we read."



"If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six hours sharpening my ax."



### "I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends."



"Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves."



"I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits that strict justice."



"Books serve to show a man that those original thoughts of his aren't very new after all."



"If you call a tail a leg, how many legs has a dog? Five? No, calling a tail a leg don't make it a leg."



"If the policy of the Government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court... the people will have ceased to be their own rulers."



"I am a success today because I had a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down."



"Some single mind must be master, else there will be no agreement in anything."



"Politicians are a set of men who have interests aside from the interests of the people and who, to say the most of them, are, taken as a mass, at least one long step removed from honest men."



## "Suspicions which may be unjust need not be stated."



# "A house divided against itself cannot stand."



"The way for a young man to rise is to improve himself in every way he can, never suspecting that anybody wishes to hinder him."



"Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country, and should dwell together in bonds of fraternal feeling."



"With the fearful strain that is on me night and day, if I did not laugh I should die."



"Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm."



"Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."



"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people ."



"Public opinion, though often formed upon a wrong basis, yet generally has a strong underlying sense of justice."



## "I walk slowly, but I never walk backward."



"A woman is the only thing I am afraid of that I know will not hurt me."



"I am not concerned that you have fallen, I am concerned that you arise."



"What is conservatism? Is it not adherence to the old and tried, against the new and untried."



"I can make a General in five minutes but a good horse is hard to replace."



"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."



"Moral principle is a looser bond than pecuniary interest."



"A statesman is he who thinks in the future generations, and a politician is he who thinks in the upcoming elections."



"This country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or exercise their revolutionary right to overthrow it."

"I care not for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it."



"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."



"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day."



## "Whatever you are, be a good one."



"In the end it is not the years in your life that count. It is the life in your years."



"Towering genius disdains a beaten path. It seeks regions hitherto unexplored."



"If I am killed, I can die but once; but to live in constant dread of it, is to die over and over again."

