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INAUGURATION LETTER

A recent public figure whose life fits the pattern of the rise and fall of a hero is Barack Obama. I do not recall any candidate who has had as much buzz, garnered more media exposure, or been as puffed up as Barack Obama. It is easy to comprehend why he has turned out to be the topic of such intrigue. Part of Barack Obama's appeal is how he inspires and motivates other people, primarily people who, prior to this election, have only been laid-back observers of politics or people who did not pursue politics at all. It is not because he does not "look" like a politician simply because he is Black, while past presidential candidates have been White. If that were the case, then Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, and Carol Moseley-Braun would have fared far better in their presidential runs. It does, however, apply because he basically connects with otherwise non-political people by communicating in everyday language.

January 20, 2009 was one of the greatest days of my life and it will go down as a monumental moment in history. It would not only make my life in vain, but also Dr. King's, Malcolm X's, and Stokely Carmichael's lives in vain. We finally have our first African American president. Initially, Washington officials were saying that as many as 4 to 5 million people might flood the city for Barack Obama's inauguration. On this day I saw with my own eyes something I have waited to see all of my short life finally come true. I saw the first African American male get sworn in as president of the United States of America, which was the best birthday present I could ever hope to receive. I felt like I was dreaming. It amazes me to think that this took place in the same country where African Americans were enslaved for roughly 260 years. It is important to remember that there were cold-blooded hangings, and school segregations; Blacks were not allowed to vote, enter into certain buildings through the front door, receive proper medical attention, or hold certain jobs simply because of the color of their skin, and were even burned out of their homes or churches!

Obviously, life is a lot better now than in the 1960's, but that does not mean that we do not still get treated unjustly. Many people think that we have chips on our shoulders and that we just find fault about things that are not really there, but that is not true. There are still many things wrong with our culture, just like any other culture's, such as complacency. It still does not negate the fact that people still treat us differently in this day and age. A lot of people feel that because things are better than the 1960's that we should stop focusing on race as an issue and how it still affects us today. To be honest, the main difference now from the 1960's is that we have our first African American president.

I loved witnessing the inauguration of President Barack Obama. It was great seeing him and believing that anyone can become anything in this world if they set their mind to it. The thing I loved about it was to see so many people stand up united for a common purpose without violence and disagreements we traditionally see. I believe we finally have a highly educated, eloquent speaker, and a respected public official.

Honestly, Barack Obama is a wonderful speaker and did an awesome job! One thing I love about his speeches is how he is able to articulate his words to a point that it brings chills down your spine and makes the hair on your body stand up. I think the speech was perfect. He reached not only Americans, but people all over the world who were beginning to lose faith in the U.S. Although Obama flubbed his swearing in, and even though it was not his fault, I felt relief that his speech seemed to show the human side to how we all should see each other!

My hope is that in the next four years, some of the greedy and corrupt people who do run our government and Wall Street will get caught or have tighter regulations so that there is accountability, not an escape plan or back door for them to scurry away. We all should have a common focus and common goals as far as what we want in America and how America relates with other world countries.

I've seen people from all over the country driving by; buses full of people from all states came to see this man. I just hope that the people understand that he is not God. While he is exceptionally eloquent, he is also a human being. If he is not able to keep all his promises due to unforeseen challenges ahead, we should not lose the optimism with which many are supporting him, but instead remember what he says about how he cannot do it alone. Obama needs everyone to start contributing in order to make all of these good things happen. Remember how the country backed President Bush after 9/11 when he declared war on the Taliban? For some reason now most of the people in the country hate President Bush, so let us not repeat the mistake twice by supporting President Obama then turning our backs on him if he makes a mistake. I think we as Americans should not persecute him but rather, we should give him a little faith and help. So, let us do our part and stop idolizing him. That is not what a president is for. He is there to enable, decide and inspire. We still have to do our part. Former President George W. Bush took America on a selfish path and presented America as warmongers and powerful, greedy people. But this new change is a turning point to throw out those who seek selfish and deceitful acts!