



DO IT RIGHT!

On June 17, 1885, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York City aboard the French ship Iser. Miss Liberty's sculptor was the noted Frenchman,

Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi. Together with his crew, Bartholdi created a masterpiece of excellence. The intricacies of this statue are incredible. One intriguing aspect of this commitment to excellence can be found atop her head. The detail given to this section of the statue makes you think the sculptor planned for the whole world to frequently gaze down at Lady Liberty's head. The fact is, once she was raised to her full height of more than 151 feet, **only the seagulls could appreciate the artist's propensity for excellence.** Bartholdi didn't think anyone would notice his work up top, but he still wanted every inch to be finished with the best he had to offer. Good thing, because in 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright created a new avenue for the world to examine Bartholdi's work. Excellence starts when we're committed to doing our best, whether or not anybody else will ever notice. Besides, somebody like Orville or Wilbur may come along and make sure the whole world takes notice of your work.

* Houston Post, June 17, 1993, p. A-25; Insight for Living, Charles Swindoll, June 1987; The Timetables of History, Bernard Grun, 1982, p. 457

Colossians 3:23

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”

THE OVEN OF ADVERSITY !

Lehman Strauss (A well known Bible teacher) has known the heartache of suffering and loss. In the midst of his wife's stroke, he wrote an excellent book, *In God's Waiting Room: Learning Through Suffering*. As he attempted to better understand the events of pain which moved into their lives, he likened their experiences to childhood memories of his mother making a cake. Dr. Strauss recalled the various ingredients that went into the cake. Flour, baking powder, shortening, and raw eggs were all part of the cake, but by themselves they aren't very enjoyable snacks. When they are properly mixed together with all of the other ingredients and baked for the correct length of time, they collectively produce a delicious dessert. In our lives we experience ingredients that seem unpalatable, and our temptation is to tell God he's ruining everything. At those times we will find greater strength and peace when we acknowledge God's perfection and trust him for the finished product.

* In God's Waiting Room: Learning through Suffering, Lehman Strauss, 1984, p. 75-76

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

James 1:2-3

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers (various) temptations;
3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:
7 That the trial of your faith, **being much more precious than of gold that perisheth**, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:



It doesn't do to do much talking when you're mad enough to choke,
For the word that hits the hardest is the one that's never spoke.
Let the other fellow do the talking till the storm has rolled away,
Then he'll do a heap of thinking 'bout the things you didn't say.



The doctor finished the exam and talked with his patient, who suffered from an ulcer. The patient was quite concerned, saying, “Doctor, I'm worried about the fact that worrying about my ulcer might make it worse!”

* Houston Post, March 17, 1992, p. D-7