INPSIRATIONAL SPEECH

FOR

JON DANH

SAMPLE

“America My Second Motherland”

In New York Harbor there stands a symbol of freedom, welcome, possibility, and acceptance. There is a poem inscribed at the base of the statue. The poem is by Emma Lazarus and begins, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free….” America has been a second motherland to millions of people from all over the world, and whether they arrived to seek their fortune or to escape a harrowing existence, or were forced to leave the land they loved, it was America that embraced each one and offered the chance to find opportunities to not only survive but to thrive.

How do you define **YOUR** America, **YOUR** homeland? Think about it. Imagine that you’ve been given the chance to take a blank canvas and then imagine that it is up to you to create the life in which you want to live …and it would all be included on that canvas. I think about this a lot because you see; America has been the second canvas that I have been blessed with. It is my second homeland. Many years ago, as a political war victim and homeless, desperate refugee, I was kicked out of my original homeland and somehow, through grace and faith and incredible generosity, America became my second homeland, took me in, provided unconditional motherly love, and allowed me the opportunity to paint my second canvas in life. Make no mistake. That canvas was almost blank when I began, but with the inspiration I discovered in my new homeland I was able to dream and then to have the privilege to work and build the future.