

2004 Democratic Convention, Part 1

Candidate for U.S. Senate in Illinois, Barack Obama, delivered the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in Boston Tuesday night. Here is a transcript of his remarks.,

Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you, Dick Durbin¹. You make us all proud.

On behalf of² the great state of Illinois, crossroads³ of a nation, land of Lincoln, let me express my deepest gratitude⁴ for the privilege⁵ of addressing⁶ this convention⁷.

Tonight is a particular honor for me because, let's face it⁸, my presence on this stage is pretty unlikely⁹.

My father was a foreign student, born and raised in a small village in Kenya.

He grew up herding¹⁰ goats¹¹, went to school in a tin-roof¹² shack.

His father, my grandfather, was a cook, a domestic servant¹³ to the British.

But my grandfather had larger dreams for his son.

Through hard work and perseverance¹⁴ my father got a scholarship¹⁵ to study in a magical place, America, that's shone as a beacon¹⁶ of freedom and opportunity to so many who had come before him.

While studying here, my father met my mother.

She was born in a town on the other side of the world, in Kansas.

Her father worked on oil rigs¹⁷ and farms through most of the Depression¹⁸.

The day after Pearl Harbor¹⁹, my grandfather signed up²⁰ for duty²¹, joined Patton's²² army, marched across Europe.

1 Dick Durbin: イリノイ州選出の連邦上院議員

2 on behalf of: …を代表して、に代わって

3 crossroads: 《～s》《しばしば単数扱い》四つ辻、十字路

4 gratitude: (物事への)感謝(の念)《for...》

5 privilege: 名誉

6 address: (団体・集会などに)演説する

7 convention: 党大会、代表者会議

8 let's face it: 《略式》事実は事実として認めよう

9 unlikely: (…が)ありそうもない、考えられない、思いもよらない

10 herd: 〈家畜の〉番をする

11 goat: ヤギ

12 tin-roof: トタン屋根の

13 domestic servant: 家事奉公人、召使い

14 perseverance: 忍耐(力)、ねばり(強さ)

15 scholarship: 奨学金

16 beacon: かがり火

17 oil rig: (海底の)油田掘削装置

18 the Depression: 《the (Great) D-》世界大恐慌(1929年から33年)

19 Pearl Harbor: パールハーバー、真珠湾: 米国 Hawaii 州 Oahu 島南部; 1941年12月7日(日本では8日)日本軍が奇襲攻撃

20 sign up: (組織・団体などに署名して)加わる、参加する

21 duty: 兵役

22 Patton: George Smith ~パットン(1885-1945)[米国の将軍、戦車戦の権威]

Back home, my grandmother raised a baby and went to work on a bomber assembly line¹.

After the war, they studied on the GI Bill², bought a house through FHA³, and later moved westÑall the way to Hawaii, in search of opportunity.

And they, too, had big dreams for their daughter. A common dream born of two continents⁴.

My parents shared not only an improbable⁵ love; they shared an abiding⁶ faith in the possibilities of this nation.

They would give me an African name, Barack, or Òblessed,Ó believing that in a tolerant⁷ America, your name is no barrier⁸ to success.

They imagined. . . They imagined me going to the best schools in the land, even though they werenÕt rich, because in a generous⁹ America, you donÕt have to be rich to achieve your potential¹⁰.

TheyÕre both passed away¹¹ now.

And yet, I know that on this night they look down on¹² me with great pride.

They stand here. . . And I stand here today grateful¹³ for the diversity¹⁴ of my heritage¹⁵, aware¹⁶ that my parentsÕ dreams live on in my two precious daughters.

I stand here knowing that my story is part of the larger American story, that I owe a debt¹⁷ to all of those who came before me, and that in no other country on Earth is my story even possible.

1 bomber assembly line: 爆撃機の生産ライン

2 the GI Bill: 復員兵援護法（教育・住宅を給付）〔復員兵に失業給付と、住宅・教育資金の貸し付けを行う法律。1944年に制定〕

3 FHA: Federal Housing Administration 連邦住宅局〔住宅ローンの債務保証をする米国政府機関〕

4 continent: 大陸

5 improbable: 〈物・事が〉起こりそう〔ありそう〕にもない

6 abiding: 持続〔永続〕的な、不変の

7 tolerant: 〈人・態度などが〉（…に）寛容〔寛大〕な

8 barrier: （進歩・接近などを）はばむものの、障壁、障害

9 generous: 寛大な、好意的な

10 potential: （…の）潜在力〔能力〕；素質

11 pass away: 《婉曲》〈人が〉死ぬ

12 look down on: （…を）（高い所から）見下ろす《at, on...》

13 grateful: （…して）ありがたく思う

14 diversity: 相違（点）；多様（性）

15 heritage: （生まれながらに）受け継いだもの；天性、運命

16 aware: （…に）気づいている、承知している

17 owe a debt: 恩義を感じる

EXERCISES

TRUE/FALSE

Listen to the statements. Circle T if the statement is true, F if it is false.

- | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 1. T F | 2. T F | 3. T F |
| 4. T F | 5. T F | 6. T F |

WORDSTUDY

Listen to the word descriptions. Match the words below with the descriptions you hear. Write the words on the appropriate lines. There are two extra words.

duty diversity crossroads barrier
privilege potential perseverance scholarship

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

DICTATION/ COMPOSITION

Write the questions you hear. Then write a full-sentence answer to each question.

1. Q: _____
_____ ?
A: _____
_____ .
2. Q: _____
_____ ?
A: _____
_____ .
3. Q: _____
_____ ?
A: _____
_____ .
4. Q: _____
_____ ?
A: _____
_____ .