

"Manzanar and its Purpose" by Mary Honda

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Manzanar and its Purpose

Why are we here in Manzanar? Truly this difficult problem or situation in which we are facing should be understood clearly by all of us here in this center. We are making a terrible error when we say, "Oh well, here I am and that's that" and take it for granted that there isn't a thing to worry about because all we had to do was sit and take it easy. We didn't come here for a joy ride or a long endless vacation from the ordinary life we had been living and "Let's get away from it all" proposition.

We came here not because we wanted to, but for our safety and further unhappiness from the thoughts of war. It's true we had to start a new life all over again despite the fact that it would take great hardships before we would be satisfied. Certainly, with the people cooperating and feeling as one large family it is more like our former "more" even if we have an altogether different system of living.

Truly, we should all cooperate and labor together in making this relocation center something to be quite proud of it and if each and every one did his share, no matter how little, we can worthily say, "We made this such a place, so that we can be proud and happy to say that each and every one of us did our share in making it worth living in"! Let us truly try to do our part in making it "our home".