The Day the Lady Cried

She was born long before them, The vision of Bartholdi's dream — The metaphorical ideal Of liberty supreme —

She welcomed huddled masses, An example to the world – Freedom lighted by a torch Around her fingers curled –

The crowned Mother of Exiles Hostess to the tempest-tost--Who've sought her teeming shore No matter what their cost--

Steadfastly so resilient, Undaunted she's remained – Her silent glow of freedom In our hearts engrained –

This strong but gentle Lady, Has in the Harbor stood – So honorably and gracefully As alone, a lady could –

For generations she endured, The lone sentry of her quest – Her proclamations of liberty Afforded her no rest –

Until the day she learned of The birth of twin brothers — In peace their dedication Partners like no others —

Up from the ground they sprang, And quickly how they grew – Growing mighty, strong, and tall, Like little brothers do –

And when the Twins were finished, There they stood, the three – A triumvirate of spirit For the entire globe to see – A tribute to imagination, To achievement and to dreams – From this shining threesome Man's height of heart did gleam –

Always there together, Would the trio always be – To guard the Lady always, The Twins you'd always see –

Down upon her gazing, A quarter-mile to the sky – The Gentle Giants' shadows So closely standing by –

They loved the Lady very much, And she as well loved them – Their beacons' brilliant promise Until that tragic end –

When in rolled in the darkness, On that unspeakable day – Where language found its limits, And you knew not what to say –

For nothing could prepare her, Nothing under Heaven – For the devastation, Of Tuesday 9/11 –

Before her eyes both murdered, Her brothers overpowered – The Gentle Giants gone, Now gone, from where they towered –

Despite the witnessed anguish Of Her many years – She stood staid and stoic, Never shedding any tears –

Until that baneful day, That day her brothers died — That was the first time ever, That the Lady cried — JSB 12/22/01