



# THE TWIN TOWERS.....

## The Tale Of The Collapsing Towers That Once Adorned The American Sky

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To touch the sky and crumble down to the very ground soon after, that's our tale! Hear out as we, the Twin towers, recollect how it all began and what ultimately befell...

### Flashback: April 4, 1973 (Inauguration Day)

"Triumph of human inventiveness, that's how they are expounding our execution, yours and mine!"  
"High Five! Besides, for Governor Rockefeller, we are "a dream come true". Imagine, twinnie!"  
"Twinnie? We ain't no twins. You are a duplicate, 2 WTC. The men behind our inception, Winthrop W. Aldrich and Mr David Rockefeller, never intended for us to be two. The original 1959 plan was to build a single 7 storey office, and before you start wondering, that's me!"  
"But that proposal was soon scrapped, 1 WTC. We are both 110-storey-high with 4,300,000 sq ft of floor area each, as per our architect Minoru Yamasaki's design draft. Talk about being equal!"  
"What about being a year late? Though our construction began in February 1967, they effectuated me in 1972, while you started accommodating tenants way after in 1973."  
"Pfft! There's no winning you! But just so you know, a little modesty goes a long way."  
"Stop with the lecture, will you? I mean just look at us! Two giant tubes composed of more than 200,000 pieces of steel from across the country, 425,000 cubic yards of concrete, 40,000 doors, 43,600 windows, and 6 acres of marble – all of that coupled with the labour of over 10,000 workers, making us the world's tallest structures. We are the dream!"  
"Tallest? What about the probability of some air-liner bumping into us someday, as Lawrence Wein claimed back in 1968?"  
"Na! He is just jealous because we surpassed his 1,250-foot-high Empire State Building. Plus, criticism comes to those who stand out. So, relax!"  
"I wonder if you really are my biological twin!"  
"Because I am not. Surprise! Surprise!"

### That phase between birth and death we call life

While our title of being the tallest in the world didn't last long (not even a year), for Chicago's Sears Tower overshadowed us with its 1450-foot-high frame in 1973, but we were functioning just fine, with a revenue of over 204 mln USD by 1983. We had our own fair share of challenges though. The sudden bombing of 1 WTC on Feb 26, 1993, the attack that claimed 6 lives with damages amounting to over 600 mln USD, was spine-chilling. We had to go through several bouts of renovations to overcome it. In other developments, we were leased to a private developer, Larry Silverstein, in July 2001, just 2 months before the unthinkable occurred...

### Flashback: September 11, 2001 (The D-Day)

**8:46 am**  
"2 WTC, why do I see an air-liner coming straight at..."  
\*screams\*  
(An American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into 1 WTC, ripping a hole from its 93rd to 99th floor.)  
"No! What just happened? Help! Somebody help my brother."  
**9:03 am**  
"I guess it's my turn now..."  
(A hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 slammed into 2 WTC, igniting a fireball and gashing it from 77th to 85th floor.)  
**9:59 am**  
"I quit, 1 WT..."  
(Fire weakened the steel trusses of 2 WTC; it collapsed, having burnt for about 56 minutes.)  
**10:28 am**  
"I am coming, twin!"  
(1 WTC collapsed, too.)

The fall of the most prized icon of American ingenuity thus claimed a total of 2,753 lives in what is considered to be the deadliest terrorist attack in human history; the abutting buildings too succumbed to the fire and falling debris. It took over 8 months of rigorous clean-up for the site to be recovered. However, more than 20,000 people were rescued, thanks to the city's emergency department personnel. In 2006, construction for the new World Trade Complex began afresh, only this time it wasn't the original Twin Towers but one skyscraper, namely 1 WTC, that made a comeback (in 2014); the project also included the

establishment of the National September 11 Memorial Museum for those fallen, but certainly not forgotten. Amen!



Illustration: Sohini Srivastava, AIS VKC Lko, IX A

# A day in the wild

## As Animals Of The Jungle Revel In Their Flaws And Those Of Others

**Aarushi Aggrwal**, AIS MV, XII

The grass stood tall and lush in all its green glory. The stream roared, as it galloped forward. The sun was over mast and snores could be heard from the far end. In short, it was a regular day in the jungle. Just then, a loud thud disrupted the afternoon siesta. It was Elle, the elephant, again. She had managed to fall into a pit, again. Poor Elle! But being the only animal in the jungle who could not jump, it was hard to find sympathy votes for her. Elle was still grimacing when she heard a giggle. It was Slimey, the slug. He used his four noses to the optimum, always smelling misery and rushing to the spot. "Be animal enough. You'd understand if you had tusks that would grow 7 inches a year," she wailed quite dramatically. "Oh come on! One must enjoy the perks of the wilderness like these, unlike them," he retorted as he pointed towards Drowsy. Drowsy, oblivious, like he was to everything else, continued to sleep. Everyone thought he'd achieve the three-year sleep-

ing benchmark, the maximum for any snail. Elle grimaced only to find sudden comfort in an unexpected presence. And why not? It was her best friend after all. He growled enough to scare Slimey away. "I will crush

you if you don't stop bothering her," said Orin. Slimey, now fearful for his life slid away, after all, nobody wants to mess with an angry orangutan. "With those fractured bones, I doubt." The witty repartee was followed by a loud

cackle, forcing everyone to look up in the air where the sound come from. Had to be pier, the Blue jay. He was always the troublemaker, scaring away his peers by imitating the sounds of a hawk. Orin wanted to counter but then it was true that half of his fellows were always fracturing their bones by falling off trees. Dodo, envious of his friend who could fly, found in this the perfect opportunity. "Some people are so ruthless. If they could think before speaking," he said. "You of all people talking of 'thinking', the one who's eye is larger than his brain," Pier retorted. Now, this wasn't the first time Dodo had felt bad for belonging to the ostrich clan. But then, he was at least better than the shrimps who had their heart in their head. Gaffy, the giraffe seeing all this commotion shook his head. He wanted to chime in, but then lack of vocal cords, you see. He stomped his feet to make a point, when the snoring stopped. Tiggy was up! Knowing which, everyone quickly fled the spot only for hakuna matata to be resonated in the background.

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### As the one being inspired

Prime Minister Modi inspires me every day. His dedication towards the nation and the foresight with which he takes every decision is just commendable. Today, if India has achieved global success, it is all due to his unwavering determination and remarkable leadership skills. Moreover, it is for the first time in the history of independent India that Arunachal Pradesh or the entire North Eastern region for that matter is being given the limelight it deserves. And for that, I am nothing but grateful. I hope we will continue getting his support and encouragement for years to come.

### As the message-bearer for youth

The younger generation should be cognisant of their fundamental duties as the responsible, law-abiding citizens of India. I have seen many people exercise their fundamental rights, but only a few acknowledge and carry out their fundamental duties with the same ardour. The participation of youth in promoting this spirit of patriotism and to further uphold the unity of this nation is thus necessary to ensure a better future. .