

"Άμες δε γ'εσόμεθα πολλώ κάρρονες"

(Εμείς θα γίνουμε πολύ καλύτεροι)

Georgia Lardis, daughter of Michael and Athena Lardis, has a passion about Ancient Greek History. She is extremely concerned that the Parthenon Marbles have still not been returned to Greece. Georgia shares with us an essay she wrote on the Parthenon Marbles which is worth reading. Georgia has a passion towards Greek history which makes all of us very proud!

My name is Georgia Lardis, I attend MLC School Sydney and I am in Year 7. I am exceedingly passionate about Ancient Greek History. I am extremely concerned that the Parthenon Marbles have still not been returned to Greece.

The Parthenon in Athens is one of the world's most famous and instantly identifiable buildings. It is an iconic historical symbol of the modern Greek state, and a reminder of the shared cultural heritage. It reaches back to 5th Century BC and signifies the birth of civilisation. There marbles must now be returned to restore the puzzle and make the collection whole once again.

First and Foremost the British museum has no reasonable grounds for retaining the marble collection from Greece. On the British Museum website it shows that this museum is universal, and not only the people of London see these sculptures but the whole world. Statistics have shown that one million people visit the gallery to see the marbles, but less than half of that visit the Acropolis. Scientific research has shown that the number of people visiting the

Acropolis will further increase, due to the fact that the marbles have returned. Previously the British denied to return the marbles, due to the fact that Greece had no stable place to hold them. Although now they have no excuse, the new museum has been built and the marbles are to be placed in there. They have no reasonable grounds on why they should retain the collection.

Of equal significance is another vital point that, Lord Elgin (the taker of the marbles) had no right to steal them. Lord Elgin had no right to take the marbles and remove them from the Parthenon. He was carelessly allowed to only collect the marbles lying on the ground. Although instead he sliced the sculptures in half and ruined them. Elgin only took part of the statue and left the other half behind. He stole most of the statues but the left the others to be ravaged by time. You may be wondering why the Greeks didn't stop Lord Elgin. This is because at the time Greece was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and they were not an independent country. They could not and were not allowed to stop Lord Elgin from stealing the marbles. Twenty years later

though Greece had a war and won freedom, they asked for the marbles back, but there request was denied.

Needless to mention is that, half of the marbles are in Britain and the other half in Greece. They should all be in one place, the country of there origin. The Parthenon marbles are part of Greece's culture and history. It is who they are and symbolizes a defining period in the history of democracy, theatre architecture, philosophy and much more. It is an injustice that the torso of a sculpture may be in Greece and the head in Britain. The marbles were ruined all because of the greed of Lord Elgin. In addition to why the Parthenon marbles should be returned to Greece is that. Whilst the marbles were in the British museum they were not looked after cautiously. In the 1930's the marbles were cleaned, this damaged the surface of the marbles majorly. These amazing artefacts were also bleached and cleaned with hard metal brushes, this almost destroyed the whole entire frieze. Also while Lord Elgin was trying to sell the marbles, he kept them in a coal shed for many years. The coal was damp and damaged the marbles ferociously.



Around the world there has been growing support for the return of the Parthenon Marbles. There have been many surveys of public opinions in Britain, that have demonstrated overwhelming support for there return. Many nation leaders such as USA, Russia, New Zealand, Australia, China, Turkey and a number of European countries have signified, that they have joined the call for Britain to return the marbles.

In summation we now look at the British to right one of histories greatest wrongs and return the Parthenon marbles home. The Greeks are there initial owners and have the right, to have there stolen architectural artefacts restored.



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Global Foods (NSW) Pty Ltd
ph: (02) 9723 5066 fax: (02) 9723 5044