

The Guardian view on the Notre Dame fire:

we share France's terrible loss

It feels as though the very heart of France and the soul of Europe have been suddenly and **viciously ripped out**. The fire that coursed through large sections of **Notre Dame Cathedral** in Paris on Monday evening was an act of blind and terrible destruction that causes a great stab of emotional pain to us all.

viciously 狠狠地; 邪恶地

rip out 扯掉

Notre Dame Cathedral 巴黎圣母院

The fire struck quickly and seemingly uncontrollably. It gathered force with immense power and **ferocity**, engulfing much of the roof and the central **spire** as it caught hold. After an hour or so, the Paris fire brigade was able to begin to get part of the fire under some degree of control and to protect the parts of the cathedral that may survive. As night fell, the great west towers still stood against the sky, proud but vulnerable.

ferocity 凶猛; 残忍

spire 尖塔

Dame is the embodiment of the French capital and of France itself. It has been in its place since the 12th century. It was here that the **liberation** of Paris in 1944 was marked in a service of thanksgiving.

liberation 解放

It is world famous not simply as an **iconic** Parisian building but through the writing of Victor Hugo, who in his novel **Hunchback** of Notre Dame made the building itself come alive.

iconic 形象的; 标志性的

hunchback 驼背

The cathedral will rise again in time. This terrible fire is not an event that should be **trivialized** or **banalized**. We stand with France in its hour of heartbreak. We will never, ever, turn away.

trivialize 使平凡

banalize 使庸俗