

**T**he city of Paris was buzzing. Today was going to be a very special day indeed! King Louis IX was going to open the Sainte Chapelle (sant sha-pell). The people in the city had watched the construction for quite some time and it now was finally finished. This beautiful place would now hold some of the most precious items of Christianity. On his last journey to the Holy Land, the King had purchased the holy crown of thorns, the one Jesus had actually worn, and a piece of the true cross.

When King Louis brought these wonderful things back to Paris, he knew that he had to create a sacred place in which to keep them. He spoke with many people about building such a place. The Sainte Chapelle was to be located on the small island at the center of the city. The Île de la Cité (eel-duh-la-sea-tay) was where the city had begun. It was the oldest and most special area in Paris.

The King's castle was also located on the Île de la Cité. The island in the middle of the great city of Paris was certainly an important place. Now after much work and hours of preparation, the Sainte Chapelle was ready to open up and store the holy objects.