

Taking Stock

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That Masonry is a "progressive moral science" is to me given meaning and substance tonight, and I hope it does give meaning and substance to the relatively younger brethren of the fraternity; for tonight, after twenty years almost to the day, I now stand installed to sit at the Oriental Chair. Indeed, tonight is the end of a long journey — to attain a goal; but as Masonry is a progressive moral science, I am reminding myself that tonight is also the beginning of another journey — to service.

I need not say that I feel a real sense of accomplishment upon reaching the East, nor likewise need I say that I feel a deep sense of responsibility upon arriving at the threshold of service.

This event takes on a more special significance for tonight I was installed by RW Brother Schon of Mt. Kaladias, my Mother Lodge, and in the presence of no less than one who occupies not only the highest station that Philippine Masonry can bestow her members, but who occupies a soft spot in my heart because he belongs to Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91 at Dumaguete City, my own Mother Lodge, besides being a very special friend of my family.

MWGM and Bro. Teves, I sincerely appreciate your presence in tonight's activities and I am deeply grateful to you for your part in the ceremonies of the evening. This event I will remember as long as I

live; and my family which is amply represented here will never forget this, I am sure.

As this event marks the end of my journey to the East, so does it mark the beginning of another journey to service. Thus, this occasion provides me a chance to take stock, to look back and to look forward. In thus looking back and looking forward, I inevitably examine myself as a Mason and as a man, for a Mason is a man, no more no less.

To Masonry twenty years ago, I brought me a man; to Masonry for as long as I live, I shall bring me a man. Tonight, I would like to ask myself — What is this man that is I who am a Mason?

As a man, I am: First, a physical body — a bundle of muscles and bones, flesh and blood. As a physical body, it can get hurt, it can bleed, it can even die. But as a Mason, although this body can bleed, bleeding it gets stronger; it can die, but dying it lives again in the hereafter. It is this body that performs the work necessary to be done, that constructs and reconstructs.

Second, as a man I am a mind — a bundle of nerves that are sensitive to both the good and the bad. Thus, it can think evil at the slightest provocation and yet it can think through difficulties for the good things in life. It is this mind that deliberates, that weighs things and events, that thinks.

Third, as a man I am a soul — a bundle of attitudes, motives, desires.

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Brethren of Kidapwan Lodge #170 visit Rizal Monument.

Standing from left to right: Bro. Arsenio Hinojales, Bro. Dionisio de Vera, Wor. Bro. Jose Nicolas, P.M. Davao Lodge No. 149; Bro. Gaudencio B. Ortiz; Wor. Bro. Ceferino Villanueva, Master; Bro. Isagani Bella; Bro. B. A. Sabriles, P.M.; Bro. Amando O. Austria.

Seated from L. to R.: Bro. A. Pagdilas; Bro. A. Negrillo, Bro. Imlam, Bro. M. Ramos, Bro. H. Andrada and Bro. Tanggum.

Contributors will please send their articles and news items typewritten, double-spaced. Pictures will please be properly identified as to event and names.

FYAWS IN . . . (from page 21)

the subjunctive mood of flow. Words flow from the mouth in the form of sound waves. As they come outside they are flashed in all directions so it could be heard all around. Fallen is the subjunctive mood of FALL which means drop or sink downward. This trifling difference makes fallen inappropriate. △

TAKING STOCK . . . (From preceding page)

It can gear toward the wrong as easily as it can gear toward the right. It is this soul that meditates, that regulates, that directs.

As a Mason, this man that is I must control my body, improve my mind, consecrate my soul.

Controlling my body, I would then be able to do things Masonic — attend meetings, participate in activities, lend a hand in worthy projects, even get hurt and bleed in the process. Improving my mind, I would then be able to render satisfactory floor and degree work, deliberate on significant problems, weigh issues in the right perspective, contribute to Masonic thinking and philosophy. Consecrating my soul, I would then be able to become a God-fearing man, understanding to my fellowmen, thus serving as a mirror of the best that is in Masonry.

These then I propose to do — control my body, improve my mind, consecrate my soul because the year before us is going to be a difficult one. There are things that need to be done and done well, ideas that need to be thought out, imperfections that need to be corrected. There will be need for sacrifice on all angles — body, mind, soul.

Tonight, I pledge to you my all. I ask that you do no less to me, for together, as one body, as one mind, one soul, we will face the year and the years with confidence. With God as our guide, we shall live Masonry the best way we are capable of. Yes, there will be stress and strain along the way, but we are heartened by the encouraging message of our MWGM in the November, 1965 *Cabletow* and with it I close quoting a part: "A man acquires moral strength under strain and stress and is more valuable than one who has grown in ease and comfort." △