

CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP SECTION

RESPECT OUR FLAG

By JUANA SAEZ PABLO *

TWO BOYS were talking on their way to school. Their conversation attracted my attention. The younger of the two was asking an important question. The question was: "Why do we lift our hats to the Philippine flag? It is only a piece of cloth of different colors."

The older boy looked at his companion and replied, "My friend, you are a young boy and do not know for what our flag stands. Will you listen, and I will tell you." This is what he said:

"Our flag is symbolic of our beloved Philippines. Each device and color on that piece of cloth has a meaning. The sun stands for liberty and freedom. The three stars represent the three great islands, Luzon, Mindanao, and the Visayas. The eight rays of the sun are symbolic of the eight provinces which revolted against the Spanish government.

"Of its colors, red stands for bravery and signifies the blood shed by Filipino patriots; white stands for purity; blue stands for peace and contentment.

"When we see the Philippine flag, we lift our hats to show our respect and love for our country, for our flag is the symbol of our country. Therefore we should honor and respect our flag."

The younger boy looked serious as he replied, "Now I understand why we lift our hats as the flag goes by, and why we should respect and honor it. It stands for our native land. We should all respect it. We should protect it from any enemy and from dishonor."

(Please turn to page 117.)

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A STUDENT'S PSALM

By ELIAS DE JESUS UMALI *

UNTO THEE, O loving teacher, do we give our grateful thanks, for thy name is gladness in our hearts. We exalt thee high with pride, for thy kindness to us is great.

For e'er since childhood's early years, when first we heard thy loving call, thou hast guided our young minds into the paths of right understanding.

Thou hast often counselled us to follow after thy will, thy reason, and thy example. We have tried to follow after thy footsteps, though often we have fallen or slipped on the way; but thy guiding and sustaining hand was ever near to hold us up, to lift us from where we had fallen, and to set us again on the right path.

Often we have been stubborn against thy will, and have caused thine eyes to shed tears. We have brought to thee trouble by our lack of understanding.

Thou hast often looked to us for the kindness that thou thyself hast shown unto us. Thou hast often longed for love, such as thou hast given us. How often wert thou disappointed!

We have mocked thee, and spoken ill of thee. We have thought of thee as being unjust. Thy words we have heeded not, nor did we turn our ears to thy pleadings.

As thou wert human, so wert thou also prone to err. In thy mistakes we took delight, and in thy weaknesses we mocked thee. Yet thy love for us was never greater than when we hated thee.

(Please turn to page 117.)

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EARLY CIVILIZATION

(Continued from page 107)

northern kingdom of the Hebrews (called Israel) and carried away as captives part of its people.

Sargon's son Sennacherib (705 to 681 B.C.) destroyed the ancient city of Babylon, and even turned the waters of the canal over its ruins. Sargon II had built for himself a palace far surpassing anything else yet built; the buildings covered 25 acres and were large enough to shelter 80,000 people. But this was not enough for his son Sennacherib, and he built as his capital the proud city of Ninevah on the upper part of the river Tigris. Thousands of clay tablets have been discovered in the ruins of Ninevah. This is the earliest library of which we know, and in it were religious, scientific, and literary works, all carefully catalogued.

The end of this Assyrian empire came in 606 B. C. A desert tribe called the Chaldeans joined with the Medes, a tribe from the East, and conquered Ninevah, the mighty city of the Assyrians. Two hundred years later a Greek historian could not even learn the name of the ruins where once Ninevah had stood.

The new masters rebuilt the old city of Babylon and made it their capital. Here lived and ruled Nebuchadnezzar, greatest of the Chaldean emperors. He enlarged the city and built enormous walls around it, like the walls of old Manila, only larger and stronger. He constructed some wonderful hanging gardens, which the Greeks counted as one of the seven wonders of the world. This is the Babylon described in the Bible as the city of Hebrew captivity, after the destruction of the Hebrew city Jerusalem.

Several Babylonian and Assyrian records tell of a great flood which once covered all the land, and how a man and his family were saved. The flood is represented as sent on earth for the sins of men.

The account of this flood was written on twelve clay tablets found in the ruins of the palace at Ninevah. Pictures of two of these clay tablets are shown on page 107.

The great civilization of Babylonia and Assyria fell, and the land ever since has been ruled by a foreign people.

REVIEW

1. Read and study about this interesting civilization.

RESPECT OUR FLAG

(Continued from page 109)

That ended their conversation. I am sure that in the hearts of those boys is a strong love and respect for the flag of their country, and a desire to have their flag clean of every stain that could cause its dishonor. Young reader, do you have that same respect for the flag?

DO THIS

Study about the meaning of our flag. Then tell it in your own words.

A STUDENT'S PSALM

(Continued from page 109)

How often at night, with tears and supplications, hast thou taken our names, one by one, before the Heavenly Father's throne of grace beseeching Him that somehow our lives might change. And our lives have indeed, changed.

Thou wert kind! Thou wert noble! Beloved teacher, we thank thee, for thou didst struggle with us with patience and loving kindness.

Surely thy untiring efforts have brought us to a realization of our shortcomings. As long as our memory lasts, thy kindness, patience, and love shall be our treasure, our benediction.