

It is the man who suffers a real deprivation that an ideal is first necessity of life; for man is an idealist by nature, and only great sufferings give birth to great ideals; and never, but this time, is the Cross more symbolic of man's ultimate hope; and prayers, more timely. No one can repress the liberty of conscience. The

axiom — "*the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom*" — has survived, up to this day, as a cult even to the infidels; and, as the salvation or damnation of the soul depends, in the last resort, upon His judgment, man must live in the right direction — towards God — with the burdens and confusions of his own history.



## Questions and Answers

By A. LEYNES CORCUERA

If you have any question on Masonry, write it down on a piece of paper and mail it to "Questions and Answers," Cablotow, 1440 San Marcelino, Manila. Your answer will appear in this section of The Cablotow, unless it is a question which should be answered by direct correspondence, in which case you will receive the answer by mail.

QUESTION: *Was Hiram Abif a real, or merely a mythical, person?*

ANSWER: He was a real person, an artisan in metals, who was sent King Hiram of Tyre (flourished about 1000 B.C.) to King Solomon to work on the ornamentation of the Temple (1 Kings 7:13-15; 2 Chronicles 4:11-22)

QUESTION: *Did Hiram Abif die in the manner known to all Master Masons?*

ANSWER: No; he finished the work he was called to do for King Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 4:11). According to Flavius Josephus (A.D. 27 — A.D. 95) "He lived in Tyre long afterwards."

QUESTION: *Has the Bible always been a part of the furniture of the Lodge?*

ANSWER: No; it was not until 1760 that the Grand Lodge of England (1717), upon motion of Wil-

liam Preston (1712-1818), decreed that the Bible be made one of the Great Lights (Voor-his, *Facts for Masons*, p. 27).

QUESTION: *What is meant by Ancient Craft Masonry.*

ANSWER: It is the name given to the three degrees of symbolic, or Blue Lodge Masonry — the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason. Sometimes the term is shortened to *Craft Masonry*. The term is most appropriate because it calls attention to the fact that the three degrees do *not* belong to any particular rite, that they constitute primitive Masonry.

QUESTION: *Why do Masons honor Pythagoras?*

ANSWER: Pythagoras (c. 582-c. 507 B.C.), born at Samos, was a remarkable and great Greek philosopher. In the course of his tra-

vels over the then known-world he became a pupil of Zoroaster (650-583. B.C.). At Crotona, Italy, he founded a religious brotherhood which borrowed from Oriental mysticism the idea of re-incarnation of the soul. He taught that the essence of all nature can be expressed in numbers, whose mysteries are found in the Hebrew *Kabbala* as well as in all occult studies and in Masonry. It is said that the symbolism of the three degrees of the Grecian Mysteries he established bears a close analogy to the symbols of Masonry. It is even claimed that esoteric Masonic doctrines were received from those of Pythagoras.

**QUESTION:** *Is it true that the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, even before the unification, had already proved the organization of a Spanish-Speaking Lodge?*

**ANSWER:** Yes; Biak-na-Bato Lodge No. 7. Bro. Felipe Tempongko, Junior Warden of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, was named Master in both the Dispensation and the Chapter. He and Bro. Leo Fischer, Secretary of Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4, translated the ritual into Spanish. This is the ritual which five years after the unification the Spanish-speaking Lodges, formerly under the Gran Lógica Regional, were required to use.

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## EDITORIAL .

(From page 260)

**Freemasonry is a way of life, a philosophy for living. It deals only with the material matters of earthly existence, prescribing through its tenets and demanding through its obligations that Freemasons conduct themselves with such brotherly love, morality, and virtue as will ensure their ascension to the Grand Lodge above where the Great Architect of the Universe lives and reigns forever.**

**Is not the objective of Freemasonry the same as that of religion? How can Freemasonry be at odds with any religion or any religion be at odds with Freemasonry, if all serve the same God and have the same ultimate goal? — R.E.W.**



**Here is my Creed. I believe in one God, Creator of the Universe. That he governs it by his Providence. That he ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable service we render him is doing good to his other children. That the soul of man is immortal and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**