

MAN AND HIS WORLD

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WHEN Rt. Wor. Bro. Charles S. Mosebrook, Deputy Grand Master, and his party officially visited our District and remarked in an appropriate ceremony that "the world today has become so small" in the face of the tremendous progress produced and piled up by the scientific mind of man of this age, he was, to my way of thinking, answering one of the biggest questions ever, "What has the world seen of man today?"

Let us start saying that with the abounding gift of nature, man profits as he did by the experiences of ancient failures and frustrations of his past. In a manner of speech, man, because of his searching mind and strong fortitude was able to rebuild in a truly manly fashion his dignity that once has virtually toppled down with the great crash of the glory that was Greece's and the decline of the grandeur that was Rome's. He rose upon the ruins of an old culture and civilization, yes, tremendously so until suddenly again he nefariously forced himself into the original and pristine dilemma which, for its sordid effects, he could have otherwise rationally avoided. Quite consciously, he accorded his lessons a distorted appreciation; he almost hardly reserved power enough to think and sustain his belief that the

world about him constantly needed of his person and his generation a rather vigorous espousal of and tenacious adherence to moral reforms and social order calculated to radiate precise glory to the Great Architect of the Universe.

With due respect and high esteem towards responsible men who serve humanity through SPECIALIZED fields of science, I beg to say that the noticeable strides of the savants' scintillating mind, oddly enough, have in a significant measure laid before this post-diluvian generation a problem which most of us are congenitally, I presume, unable to comprehend much less fully understand and advance or put forward wise solutions to. This is authority to say that man deliberately moves in his little world in so fast and progressive a pattern; his paces show his direction and seem to be telling how definitely consigned he is to conquering the physical world. In fact, man has gone far enough, and is set going farther on, God forbid, introducing manifold changes of external conditions which even his inner self cannot seem to catch up with. The Prime Minister of India observed that after man has allowed history to record his brilliant and daring conquests he has "failed to conquer himself".

For one thing, while man had convinced the world that he is exceedingly powerful with what he earned in his startling defiance of the law of gravity as shown by his successful experiments with the intricacies involved in the process when he started orbiting the earth with his Russian sputnik and thereafter rocketing into the world of weightlessness his American version of atomic spacecrafts with supersonic speed, none the less, he now stands out before the bar of public opinion unreleased from the sheer feeling of gigantic inadequacy as his creation of the idea of "colossalism" is squarely challenged. His breakthrough in space exploration and his impressive possession and demonstrated control of impregnable-looking ground and naval forces are very remarkable; it has catapulted him considerably to that variable throne of greatness. But, somehow, he has to face the fact that it is at this same point where his wisdom, nay, his so called GREATNESS — wanes. Lest we forget, with the almost inconsequential volume of the human brain as compared to the size of the world man lives in, it becomes almost impossible to believe that, factors considered, he — this man — has let loose a deafening description of his potentiality to destroy by "burning the whole world" in a matter of minutes at any given time. At the moment, to give this subject an expanded treatment here would be to indulge in elephantine pursuits.

Suffice it to say that the world has witnessed the mad motion of this man; by the latter's tongue and pen the former has suffered and it seems it is bound to suffer some more, and more indeed if man's ac-

tivity will have to drift unsuspectingly from God's will and Divine intentions. Things being what they appear to be, we know that before 33 nations joined the U.S. and Britain "in subscribing to the prohibition against nuclear weapons tests", man annoyed, and therefore has menaced, the peace of mankind when his Russian prejudices and temperaments influenced him to want to continue holding nuclear underwater, space, and atmospheric tests in spite of America's INITIAL approach and sane proposal of banning the practice. We know, too, that for deliberate reasons of defense or otherwise, nations of man across the seas and in places separated from us by vast land surfaces are meaningfully involved in mass production of atomic weapons for mass destruction. Parenthetically, the Hydrogen Bomb or its kind is recognized as having in a qualified sense the capacity of annihilating the human race. But certainly, the existence of man's ingenuity in his being able to contrive this and other deadly tools of warfare does not, and we must add, cannot totally wipe out the living fact that he too alone can possibly recognize the international value of the Big Table around which great men of great nations confer and reach from time to time an agreement that can resolve once and for all the logic of violence in relation to man's fervent desire to attain his peace.

Man, then, can hope to survive in peace depending on which side of the great dividing line he happened to fence himself in. At this point he should be able to adequately identify himself: — Of course, neither must he do it by the color of his skin nor by the language he speaks.

Not by the country of his origin, either. Be that as it may, a singular course of action left for us to follow becomes apparent: we size him necessarily by which one of the two different world ideologies he believes in and lives truly by. In this connection, if only to say that one system is better than the other, let us tell him that if he still is within the camp of "non-conformists", to coin the term, or that he is not yet a free-man in the democratic sense of the word, let us rally him up to join the rest of the free people of the world in their crusade for a well meaning life; let us tell him that under our Free System a band of competent men of peace are dead-serious diplomatically running the international affairs of free states without the least violating the sovereignty of the latter. Too, let's make him firmly realize our well-founded courage to say that the Free World's massive stock of arms in strategic armories deployed throughout the world is not without influence on the minds of the communists. And when he needs elaboration on this, hasten to mention generously the constructively revealed striking power of America and her allies which made Khrushchev-Russia reconsider things as this situation was vividly shown in all its clarity during the wake of the erstwhile tight Cuban crisis that ultimately saw the declared withdrawal of and "significant reduction in Soviet forces..." that poured for one reason or another into that West Indies island. Obviously, this world incident has essentially kept the United States invested with the distinct international dignity despite the non-use of her maneuverable

power into actual military struggle at that given eventuality. But let us believe that on the other side of the coin Russia did not lose. His tact in eventually consenting to the consistent universal demand that he desists from attempting to ignite a global conflict (which he could have done by insisting to go on with his military build-up in Cuba) has earned for him a soft spot in the hearts of freedom-loving peoples of the world.

Evidently, therefore, if man has to go his own way to such an extent that he critically miscalculates and stubbornly ignores the tenable merits of pliant issues vitally connected with his present and the future peace of his sensitive generation simply because of his chronic consciousness of what a mighty stock of nuclear devices available at his command can physically do for him, then he is liable to encounter a still more terrific event that would not in itself present an opportunity for him to find a purposeful and rewarding solution to that sought-after degree of peace. Truer then has become of the pronounced statement that man and himself alone spells his own destiny still.

Significantly, man who is said time and again to be the **KEEPER OF HIS BROTHER** must now wake up to realities of the time. And warily he must. For in his twentieth century slumber the question of his age has unequivocally emerged sooner than he thought: "Shall man turn against man to destroy man?" Certainly, not. Absolutely, no; it should not happen! Man, instead, must live and "without conditions" help others live.