

# "A Tree is known by its Fruits"

WB VICTORIANO TIROL, PM

*Dagohoy Lodge #84*

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Rt. Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Most Worshipful Grand Secretary, Very Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master, Worshipful Sirs, and Brethren:

In the name of Dagohoy Lodge No. 84 and in my own, I welcome you all. I hasten to add that I feel honored to be the keynote speaker of this convention.

I shall not speak to you on the ideals and principles of Free Masonry which are all known to you.

I shall not attempt to repeat here the glorious history of our venerable fraternity in its efforts to liberate mankind from fanaticism, bigotry and slavery. That too is familiar to us all. The story of the triumph of the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity is practically the story of Free Masonry. The steady light that guided and finally liberated mankind from darkness during the dark ages was the light furnished by our fraternity. That too is a familiar story.

I shall not recount here all over again the noble and glorious deeds of our great brothers which affected or changed even the destinies of nations; of such brothers as Jose Rizal, Washington, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Emilio Aguinaldo, Jose Abad Santos, Manuel Roxas, Douglas McArthur and thousands of others. Their achievements belong to history.

Rather, I shall repeat here by way of reminding myself and my fellow

brothers of the quiet, simple truth uttered almost two thousands years ago by Jesus of Nazareth, "A tree is known by its fruits," "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Free Masonry for ages has been known for its leading members and by the achievements of its pillars as they met the challenges of their times. But again, I do not propose to speak of the spectacular or of the unusual.

I will rather limit myself to the ordinary, simple day to day acts of the ordinary Mason as he goes on living his even tenor of life.

As ordinary individual Masons, do we try to live up to the ideals and principles of Masonry?

We speak of brotherhood of men, do we regard those with whom we deal in the spirit of a brother? How do we treat our servants, our workers or employees? Do we meet them on the level, or do we exploit them if we have the chance for our own selfish interests? In this respect, don't we know of brother Masons who are far below standard and who seem to be a disgrace to the fraternity? Don't we know of brother Masons who will go as far as to exploit another brother?

We speak of charity, of love. How do we treat our fellowmen, even our brethren? How far or near are we to the standard of Jesus Christ, "Thou shalt love thy neighbors as

thyself," or "Thou shall love one another as I love you?" Don't we sometimes malign our fellow beings, or even speak ill of our brothers?

We are expected to help one another, specially the worthy distressed brother, but how often do we cause the distress of our brethren ourselves?

We speak of the fatherhood of God and yet in our actions in every day life, we often bear no resemblance to the heavenly father.

We enjoin ourselves to square our actions, yet we sometimes behave as if our squares have no right angles.

We are taught to be sincere and to avoid hypocrisy, yet how many of our brothers hide their identities for purposes of convenience?

We boast of walking upright in rectitude as by the plumb, yet in every day life we often see ourselves or our brethren very much bent, far from the upright, a disgrace to morality and decency. These inconsistencies and many more, are seen by many if not by all, for Masons are as a "city set on a hill and can not be hid".

These inconsistencies, these weaknesses, are stains to the honor and prestige of our fraternity. Do we wonder then that our enemies, and we have legions of them, take advantage of our weaknesses and inconsistencies which could have been avoided by being more sincere to our obligations as Masons? These enemies of ours distort our motives and thereby destroy our effectiveness.

Certainly, in times like this, when good, honest and sincere men are rare specimens, we as Masons need to travel by the plumb, act by the square and meet people on the level in our daily lives. In so doing we shall live real Masonic lives, bearing the blessed fruits of brotherly love, relief and

truth. In other words, all we need is to remind ourselves that as a tree is "known by its fruits" a Mason is known by his deeds.

This Convention will bear fruitful results if we who come here pause and meditate on the pure ideals and lofty principles of Free Masonry and live and act by them. If we do, we shall become real Masons in ideals, words and deeds.

Now, as in the days of Brother Rizal, every Mason is needed in day to day nation building and unless we strive to be worthy to the challenges of the present as Brother Rizal and our other heroes were in their times, we shall have failed to be worthy of the expectations and dreams of our great martyred brothers who died that we may live.



## RIZAL DAY IN ILOCOS

On Rizal Day, December 30, 1960, Vigan Lodge No. 63, F. & A.M. sponsored a program honoring Dr. Jose Rizal at the new monument to Rizal in Vigan, Ilocos Sur. This was very significant since Vigan never had a monument to Rizal before.

Also significant was the coming of Junior Grand Warden Pedro Gimenez as main guest speaker. Though only a small crowd came, some important people were present. The Governor of Ilocos Sur, Godofredo Reyes, welcomed us and was so impressed that he spoke of wanting to become a Mason himself.

DeMolay boys and others brought musical and folk dance numbers.

HUBERT REYNOLDS  
Worshipful Master, Vigan Lodge No. 63.