

Honor is Duty

By

Wor. Bro. C. M. Picache, Master of Nilad Lodge No. 12, F & A M

My message tonight is addressed both to my brethren and to our friends now assembled in this Lodge Hall.

To my brethren: I am very much overwhelmed by high honor which you have just conferred upon me. It has summoned my sentiment of gratitude, and stimulated my sense of humility. For the East of the Lodge, as we all know, is the place of Light—Light is contradistinguished from Darkness, God—and none but he who appreciates the fact that the realization of one's ignorance is the first step to one's wisdom may fittingly and properly seek it. Conscious of my limitations, but confident of your support and assistance, I shall make such searching for Light my continual aim and obsession.

Yes, my brethren, I propose to do just this—not solely that I may become a better Mason and a better man, but that, through such self-development and self-discipline, I may help others to achieve the same end. Of course, I know that, by our human differences or intrinsic natures, we each have our conception of Light. What in it may attract one, may not attract the others; what may draw others to it may not draw us.

But certainly there are certain facets to it in which there is, or there should be, unanimity of view or agreement of belief—such as, for instance, the truth that only as we dedicate ourselves to the tasks at hand can we accomplish grander things in the days to come.

Indeed, all too often we look afar for opportunities for activity and achievement when right in our midst are tasks

that demand our earnest attention. Often at so much expense of time we draft long-range plans when the immediate projects that we have started are still halfway, if not a long way, to realization. Frequently we disperse our efforts, as it were, across so many domains, over so many directions, and muster only the minimum of our talents.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with hitching our wagons to the stars. Especially during these days of tremendous progress in science and technology, in business and industry, in labor and management, man finds himself ushered into the age of automation and it will not be to his credit to fail to aim high and shape up his dreams to the eternal wonders. But man must be sure that he has the time, the talent and the training, the desire, the disposition and the determination, for such an act.

A few words to our friends.

"Freemasonry builds its temple in the hearts of men and among nations." Its beliefs, its teachings and philosophy, were sources of inspiration even to the framers of constitutions of the civilized nations of the world, so that not infrequently we find incorporated in them: (1) the belief in a Supreme Being, (2) the freedom of thought and conscience, (3) the freedom of religion and worship, (4) freedom of the press (5) of democracy and equality and (6) of the universal brotherhood of man.

No person can become a member of this venerable and ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons unless

first and foremost, he believes in God. As Freemasons we seek Divine guidance and assistance when opening a lodge and invoke the blessings of God on closing. But Masonry is not a religion contrary to what many people think. I repeat: Masonry is not a religion. It is a religious fraternity. For "every candidate who knocks at the outer door must profess a belief in God. At the threshold of the lodge he must kneel to that God. He is charged never to speak His holy name except with that reverence due from the creature to his Creator. No Masonic assembly is ever opened or closed without prayer. An open Bible is always upon its altar. It draws inspiration from it. The candidate says his obligation by and over it. Passages from the scripture are either read or sung during the conferrals. The whole fraternity is predicated upon the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and its command is to love the Lord with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.

No reasonable person who understands the Masonic fraternity will believe for one moment that it has ever tried to supplant the church. But this greatest human brotherhood the world has ever known, has gone ahead minding its own business and accomplishing its mission.

Again and again we say that Freemasonry is a religious society. It is not a religion. But if a great many people think it is, let us in the fraternity rejoice that they find in Freemasonry a religion that they might never find in a church.

The members of this Fraternity believe in, and practice democracy in all its aspects, and "Masonry has brought about equality for all men, of all creeds and of all colors.

Our fraternity reveres our flag and

the country for which it stands. You must have witnessed the flag ceremony at the public opening of this Lodge. You will see it again at closing when the flag of our country is restored to its original place in the hall. We believe in that great Filipino patriot, Apolinario Mabini, the Sublime Paralytic, when he aptly said:

"Love thy country next to thy God, and thy honor more than thyself, for it is the only paradise that God hath given thee in this life, the only patrimony of thy race, the only inheritance from thy ancestors, and the only legacy for thy descendants; because of it thou hast life, love, interest, happiness, honor, and God."

"The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in the fear of punishment which the law may inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil in the next world. A Freemason would be good and just if there were no laws, human or divine, except which are written in his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the universal throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received, and in humble solicitation for his protection. He venerates the good men of any and all kinds of religion, he disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions, because they can not be indulged in without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is not certain to discharge, because he is honest upon principle." He believes in charity. By the tenets of Freemasonry, he seeks relief, not only to

the family of a distressed worthy brother, but to every man, woman and child.

My brethren and friends, if I have said all this, it is not to take unto myself the role of a preacher, nor of that of a reformer, but simply to indicate the probable position of the possible Light—or at least, a ray of it—that the East of the Lodge can provide every single one of us. We have joined Masonry that we may become better men, and we can become better men only as we recognize the truth that, whether in affairs of our personal business or in the business of our fraternal lodge, there occurs to us, at one time or another, "the opportunity to effect a great good," and it will be worse than folly to let that opportunity pass by.

And now brethren, in the next twelve months, there will come to Nilad Lodge No. 12, Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, many such an opportunity, and I shall fail in my position as your Worshipful Master—nay, I shall

miss the confidence and trust that you have so generously reposed in me—if I do not call attention to all those opportunities—whether big or small, whether creative or prosaic, whether far-reaching or immediate—and accordingly plead for your cooperation.

And I know that, when the hour or occasion comes, you will extend that cooperation. You will do so because as Masons you know as much as I do that worthwhile results are most ordinarily produced by an aggregate of many contributions and many exertions. In true brotherhood, therefore, we shall plan together and work together, we shall draw upon our collective resources for the inspiration and energy to perform the tasks at hand for the credit of our Lodge and the glory of our Fraternity, and to the extent of our means and capacity, do even more and this is, by continuance, by persistence, by a steady and uniform habit of work, endeavor to advance the enlightenment and welfare of our country and of the world we live in.



O BROTHER MAN, FOLD TO THY HEART THY BROTHER

*O brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.*

*For he whom Jesus loved has truly spoken:
The holier worship which He deigns to bless
Restores the lost, and binds the spirit broken,
And feeds the widows and the fatherless.*

*Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him whose holy work was doing good;
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.*

—John Greenleaf Whittier

WITH GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

As usual the month of January has been a most busy month for the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and some of our Past Grand Masters. There were installations to attend, visitations to make, and laying of cornerstones and dedication of temples to be present at.

Alone or in company with the Grand Secretary, Grand Master Hick was present at the installation of Pinagsalitan Lodge No. 26 in Santa Cruz, Laguna on January 3, 1959; visited Sarangani Lodge No. 50 and Davao Lodge No. 149 in Davao City, on January 6; T. M. Kalaw Lodge No. 136 in San Juan, Rizal on January 13; Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 in Daet, Cam. Norte on January 14, and in company with Most Wor. Bro. Sidney M. Austin, PGM, visited and installed the officers of Baguio Lodge No. 67 in Baguio City on January 16 and Bontoc Lodge No. 140 in Bontoc on January 17; then Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91 in Dumaguete City on January 19; Dagohoy Lodge No. 84 in Tagbilaran, Bohol on January 20; a joint visitation in Cebu City to Mactan Lodge No. 30 and Cebu Lodge No. 128 on January 21.

Re. Wor. Bro. Macario M. Ofilada, Deputy Grand Master, journeyed to Pintong Bato Lodge No. 51 in Bacoor, Cavite on January 3; Biak Na Bato Lodge No. 7 in Plaridel Temple on January 8; Quezon City Lodge No. 122 in Quezon City on January 9; Union Lodge No. 70 in San Fernando, La Union on January 10; Marikina Lodge No. 119 in Marikina, Rizal on January 16; Tamaraw Lodge No. 65 in Calapan, Mindoro on January 17; Dapitan Lodge No. 21 in Manila on January 19; Hoilo Acacia Lodge No.

OLDEST MASON IN THE PHILIPPINES

Prideful is the Grand Lodge of the Philippines that in Bro. James Jardine Wilson, it has one of the oldest Masons in the Orient. Ninety-two year-old "JJ", as his intimates call him, has been sixty-nine years a Mason, paying dues inspite of the honor of a Life-Membership awarded to him by his Lodge, Mt. Apo No. 45, some two years ago.

Bro. Wilson was raised to the sublime degree on January 27, 1890 at St. John Lodge No. 16 in his native Falkirk, Scotland. Years later, when he emigrated to the United States, he joined Pentalfa Lodge No. 316 in Los Angeles, California. At the turn of the century, Bro. Wilson joined the Army of the United States and was sent to the Philippines. In Zamboanga where he was stationed for sometime, he joined Mt. Apo Lodge No. 45 in 1918 as a character member and has been a member of that Lodge ever since.

Still young enough to travel, Bro. Wilson set sail for the United States and Scotland early last year to visit with his folks, or what is left of them, in those countries. He is expected back in Zamboanga shortly.

11 in Hoilo City on January 24.

Grand Secretary Munarriz, whenever possible, accompanied the Grand Master or the Deputy Grand Master, but where it was impossible for either officers to be present due to previous engagements, our Grand Secretary went alone or in company with other Grand Lodge Officers. Most Wor. Bro. Munarriz went to Moug Lodge No. 89 in Parañaque, Biral on January 10; Batangas Lodge No. 35 in Batangas on January 17; and Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110 in Cotabato on January 22.

Bakit Gayon?

*Noong ikaw'y tumutuktok sa pinto ng kapatiran,
May apoy ka ng sigasig at sidhi ng kalooban;
Bakit ngayong matanggap ka't ang diwa mo'y mailawan,
Saka ka pa nanlalamig at madalas na magkulang?
Bakit baga tila waring sa puso mo'y napaparamdam
Ang sikhay ng iyong nais na ang iba'y bahaginan,
Ng matayog na kuro mong sa gawai'y pamatnubay
At gayon din, di na nais na ikaw ma'y madulutan?*

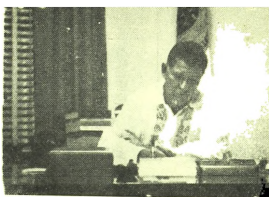
*Kung sa araw na natakdang tayo'y dapat na magkita
Ay sikapin nating lahat na matupad ang panata,
Di malayong sa palitan ng kuro ng isa't isa'y
Matamo ang kaganapan ng lunggati't gintong pita;
Maging yaong suliraning sa puso ay bumabakla,
Kung maraming magtutulong na lumulas at magdala,
Mabigat ma'y gagaan din at madaling makikita
Ang lunas na magdudulot ng liwanag at ginhawa.*

*Di ba't tayo ay nagkusang dumulog at nakisapt
Sa layuning makiisa sa gawaing natatangi;
Nanumba nang buong puso na tayo ay magbibinhi
Ng aral sa madlang tao upang luminis ang budhi,
At gayon din ang kapalid sa ginhawa'y ihahati,
Tutulungan ang salantang sa hirap ay nalugami;
Pa'nong yao'y magagawa kung liban ka ngang lagi
At ang tawag ng tungkulin ay pansinin mo na dili?*

*Kahapon ay nakita kong ikaw nama'y nakinabang
Sa tulong ng natanggap mong sikap nitong kapatiran;
Saka ngayong dumakila tila yata babayaan
Ang nagpala at nagdulot ng taglay mong karangalan,
Bakit waring nalimot na ang sumpa mong hinitiwang
Noong ikaw'y kumakapa sa laot ng kadiliman?
Balikan mo ng gunita — nang kamtan mo yaong ilaw
May panatang binigkas kang tutuparin habang buhay!*

FILOMENO R. CARPIO
Makalapa Lodge No. 46

On April 27, 1958, at 48, not the youngest, but certainly the tallest, 6' 6", Most Wor. Bro. Howard R. Hick, was installed Grand Master of Masons of the Philippines, the world's biggest Grand Lodge. His managerial acumen as President and General Manager of Peter Paul Philippines, Inc. served him well in directing the business of the Grand Lodge for 1958-'59.

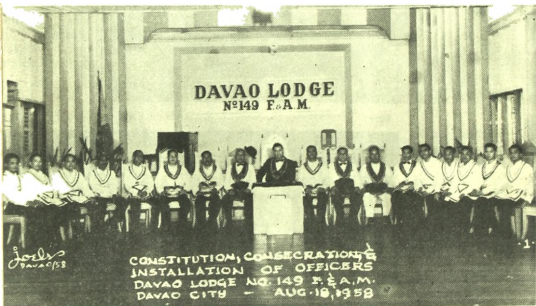


Tackled his job like a football star, which was, NYU, and bore through with success. Encouraged cultural outlets hidden talents. Masons, East Stars, DeMolay Rainbows, Jbies . . . the presented dramas, musicals, national dance

Inspired organization of more youth groups affiliated to Masonry. Was honorary host at institution of a new Bethel of Job's Daughters on Feb. 15, 1959 at Plaridel Temple; firmly believes in the potentialities for good of the young; in responsibilities of the adults to the youth.



His term saw the building, decorating, repairing, refurbishing of lodge temples. Officiated at the corner-stone laying for three new temples; dedicated two. In Plaridel Temple, facilities were augmented, services improved.



Gave impetus to "more-men-in-Masonry-and-more-Masonry-in-men" ideal. Constituted three lodges; gave dispensation to one; saw the re-organization of Mt. Makiling Lodge in Bro. Rizal's hometown of Calamba, Laguna.

WELCOME Southern Luzon MASONIC CONVENTION Albay

5th DISTRICT
FIRST ANNUAL SOUTHERN LUZON MASONIC CONVENTION
LEGAZI NOV 21, 22 1957 ALBAY

Found great joy in attending District Grand Lodge Conventions, eight of them; visited edge meetings; gave stirring, punchy talks to brethren in Masonic gatherings, installations. In prior planning that prevents poor performance, his help-meet, Jean, inspires.





When practicable he has flown outside the country to be present at other Grand Lodge communications. Visited with brethren (above) in Japan; has warm spot in his heart for the four Japanese lodges which chose to remain with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. And yet, finds time to fellowship with Eastern Stars (right) in meetings or socials.

